

**WORLD/A9**

Nearly 100 firms linked to Thai PM Thaksin face boycott

**NEWS/A2**

Gen. Danilo Lim to NBI: There was no coup plot, no alliance with Reds

**NEWS/A3**

Sandigan revokes sequestration of 4 Lucio Tan firms

**NEWS/A2**

Journalists file petition to stop gov't from censoring media

**GMA invocation of God angers religious leaders**

By Christian V. Esguerra and Gil C. Cabacungan



PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S invocation of God to justify her stay in office amid questions of legitimacy has unsettled, if not angered, some reli-

GMA/A6

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, March 9, 2006

★★

4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 91

P1B

website: www.inq7.net

**Samuel Lee released after posting P360,000 bail**

By Luigi A. del Puerto and Armand N. Nocum

SAMUEL LEE, A SUSPECTED SMUGGLER WITH purported ties to First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, was released by the police yesterday after posting bail.

"Lee posted P360,000 in cash bond. (He was) ordered released (by a Manila Regional Trial Court). We released him at around 6 p.m.," Supt.

SAMUEL LEE/A6

# 17 liable for stampede

**One woman in women's mind on Women's Day**

By Tarra V. Quismundo

FOR THE THOUSANDS WHO marched in Makati City yesterday, International Women's Day was all about one woman: President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Housewives, teachers, students, professionals, children and members of the urban poor renewed their call for the ouster of Ms Arroyo in the first major protest action since she lifted her declaration of a state of national emergency on Friday.

"We're certainly not celebrating her. We're repudiating her on International Women's Day. That's a slap on her. You cannot celebrate women's rights and welfare and the struggle to liberate women without denouncing this particular woman," said Carol Araullo, chair of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

"She shows the worst qualities of masochists. She is boastful, she tramples upon the rights of others ... and because the majority of Filipinos are women, she is abusing the rights of women," Araullo said.

Corazon "Dinky" Soliman, Ms Arroyo's resigned social welfare secretary, said it was unfortunate that the incumbent happened to be a woman:

"It is one of the ironies. She is not honest to the principles of women in the Philippines and the women's movement in general, [which are] based on truth, justice and peace ... All of that she was not able to fulfill."

Among 10 of the key officials who resigned in July last year, the height of the controversy that implicated Ms Arroyo in election fraud, Soliman remembered celebrating International Women's Day with the President in Malacañang with the President in Malacañang

ONE WOMAN/A6



**TAKING IT IN STRIDE:** Even as the rallies of the Int'l Women's Day heat up with clamor for her ouster, a cool President Arroyo walks back to her Palace office after the live broadcast of her regular roundtable discussion.

## Antiriot cops mar women's rally, arrest lawmaker

By DJ Yap

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WAS marked yesterday by antiriot police dispersing an assembly of women activists and arresting two of their leaders, including Alybayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel.

"This arrest is veritable proof that despite the lifting of Presidential Proclamation No. 1017, the President is bent

on violating civil liberties to silence those who simply wish to have the truth exposed," Baraquel later said at Camp Karingal, where she was taken.

She was released yesterday afternoon after a group of lawyers and her fellow lawmakers, including Partido ng Manggagawa Rep. Renato Magtubo and Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, invoked her immunity from suit as a member of Congress.

But ground commander Senior Supt. Elmo San Diego said Baraquel had only been "invited for questioning."

Also taken into police custody was Alliance of Progressive Labor (APL) secretary general Joshua Mata, who was plucked from the crowd during the dispersal.

Mata said the rough dispersal was proof that the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo was "patently

insecure" because it had to resort to coercive ways to stifle dissent.

According to Akbayan information officer Percy Cendaña, Mata was charged with violating Batas Pambansa No. 880, or the illegal assembly law, before an assistant city prosecutor.

Baraquel's supporters said she would file charges of physical assault, grave misconduct and violation of parliament.

ANTIRIOT/A6

## 'Superman's' widow dies of lung cancer; 44

WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK—A YEAR and a half after her husband died, the widow of Christopher Reeve of the "Superman" movies, succumbed to lung cancer. She was 44.

Dana Reeve, the singer-actress married the strapping star and then devoted herself to his care and his cause after he was paralyzed.

Although Dana Reeve had announced her cancer diagnosis in August last year—to an outpouring of sympathy and support from admirers

SUPERMAN/A6



**NOW AND FOREVER:** Dana Reeve had sung the song in January. They are now together again never more to part.

## LPG shows poverty now wears a woman's face

By Vincent Cabreza  
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau  
and Kate Pedroso  
PDI Research

### POVERTY WEARS A WOMAN'S FACE

Many households in Metro Manila cannot afford liquefied petroleum gas, according to a survey conducted by the Center for Women's Studies (CWS).

Myrna, a government employee from Laguna, now uses wood instead of LPG if she has to boil meat—a task that takes more time and, therefore, consumes more fuel. That practice has allowed her to extend her LPG consumption to two months from one

and a half months.

Fe, a manicurist from Laguna, finds it cheaper to buy her family's food from a nearby store. If she has to, she uses her LPG only for frying. The current LPG tank she uses was bought last December.

Mary Jane Guan, CWS executive director, said on Tuesday that the survey put a "woman's face" to the state of poverty in the country.

Speaking at a forum at the University of the Philippines Baguio, Guan said 39 percent of 200 mothers that the CWS randomly surveyed in January said they had abandoned LPG in favor of meals

LPG/A7



**BODILY CARRIED** into a police vehicle, Alybayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel tries to break free from the cops who claim to be "inviting" her "for questioning."

**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Eastern Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Mindanao which may trigger flash-floods and landslides. The rest of Luzon and Visayas will be cloudy with rainshowers.

COMPILED BY RAYmundo, PH RESEARCH DIVISION

SOURCE: PAGASA

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER****Second FRONT PAGE**

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2006

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Bataan	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Bohol	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Lanang	Partly Cloudy	Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Taytay	Partly Cloudy	San. Santos	Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Zambanga	Rains
General Santos	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Rains
Davao	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Rains

# Journalists slam censorship

By Alcuin Papa

**PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S DECLARATION** of a state of national emergency has placed press freedoms under siege again 20 years after the fall of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, journalists said yesterday.

In a petition before the Court of Appeals, nine journalist groups and organizations and about three dozen individual news people asked the court to stop the government from imposing censorship and prior restraint on the press.

"The threat of official intervention – in the form of administrative sanction or criminal prosecution – is just as damaging to a free press as the fact of it," the petition said.

Although the President lifted the emergency last Friday, government's moves against the media could have a lasting chilling effect, the journalists said.

Ms Arroyo said she imposed the week-long emergency, which ended last Friday, to foil a coup plot by a cabal of leftists and rightists.

**Magnified in media**

In her decree, Proclamation 1017, the President said the claims of the coup plotters "have been recklessly magnified by certain segments of the national media."

It gave the government powers to ban rallies, arrest people without warrants and crack down on inflammatory media.

Police subsequently raided the Daily Tribune, a newspaper critical of Ms Arroyo, and troops were deployed around the two largest TV networks.

The National Telecommunications Commission also reminded radio and TV stations of prohibitions on the broadcast of "rebellious, terrorist propaganda" and statements that "propose or incite

treason, rebellion or sedition."

In a phone interview, Maria Ressa, head of the news division of ABS-CBN, one of the court petitioners, said the suit was their way of "holding officials accountable for what they say."

The petition asked the CA to prohibit Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, Philippine National Police chief Gen. Arturo Lomibao and National Telecommunications Commission Chair Ronald Solis from "stopping, prohibiting or censoring the publication or airing of speech..."

It said that even with the lifting of Proclamation 1017, the three officials continue to "review and monitor...[and] threaten the press..."

Interviewed last Tuesday for the first time since lifting the state of emergency, Ms Arroyo reminded journalists that "freedom comes with responsibility."

"I do not always seek 'praise releases,' I look for a journalist... who does not just praise, in fact often criticizes, but also knows the limits," she told GMA radio anchor Mike Enriquez.

Vice President Noli de Castro yesterday said that only "lazy journalists" are unable to achieve a balanced reportage.

A former broadcast journalist, De Castro said he agreed with the President that the media should be "fair" in their reporting.

Asked if he thought the media have been fair, De Castro said: "There are those who are not fair. But there are also those who are fair, especially the seasoned broadcasters."

With AFP and Nikko Dizon



**WHAT COUP PLOT?** Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim talks to reporters at the National Bureau of Investigation to deny allegations of a conspiracy of renegade soldiers and communist rebels to oust President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

REY ZAMORA

## No coups, says sacked general

By Margaux Ortiz

**ARMY BRIG. GEN. DANILO LIM, WHO WAS** dismissed from his post and detained for allegedly plotting against President Macapagal-Arroyo, denied that he had conspired with communist rebels to oust the President.

"There was no coup. It is not true that I am involved in an alliance with the Left. I will never allow myself to be in that position," said Lim, the former First Scout Ranger Regiment commander, in his first public appearance since his arrest on Feb. 24.

Lim, who appeared at the National Bureau of Investigation yesterday to testify in the inquiry into the Time magazine article implicating him, later faced reporters and answered questions on the various issues he is facing.

Lim, who arrived at the NBI under heavy guard, denied any knowledge of alleged efforts by the renegade Magdalo group of officers to recruit soldiers and ally with leftist groups to oust the President.

"It would be unthinkable for me, a general of

the AFP and commander of the Scout Ranger regiment to enter into such arrangement. How can I face my men if I deal with the Left?" he said.

Lim said Armed Forces Chief Gen. Generoso Senga "could testify that I did not convince him to join any coup plot on Feb. 23."

Senga put Lim under his custody after uncovering an alleged plan by the dismissed Scout Ranger commander to lead his troops to an opposition rally that would call for the President's resignation.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday stood pat on its claim that a cabal of renegade soldiers, including Lim, were in a conspiracy with leftist groups to overthrow Ms Arroyo.

Ermita said the evidence would be made public when Lim and the other alleged conspirators are charged in a court-martial.

Lim said he never gave any orders for his troops to move to Metro Manila from Bulacan.

"I should have had my Scout Rangers with me if I was indeed involved in a coup plot," he said.

Lim admitted that his regiment received a P4 million donation from the Saludo sa Kawayan Foundation set up by deposed President Estrada, now on trial for corruption.

But he said it was received by the regiment's sergeant-major, not himself, in behalf of a cooperative which Lim established three years ago to lend money to soldiers' families.

"I could not care less about the source of the money as long as it would be used for the soldiers and their families," Lim said.

"But it was definitely not used for any coup attempt," he added.

Lim also denied heading a military breakaway group called Para Sa Bayan, which he said was the Reform the Armed Forces Movement's motto in the late 1980s.

"My name is often being used by people whom I do not know from Adam," he said with some irritation.

He recalled having been involved as a young Army captain in the 1989 coup attempt against President Aquino, and has been dissuading reserve young officers to follow the same path.

Reynaldo Esmeraldo, the head of the NBI Special Task Force, said Lim was asked to appear in the agency's probe into a Time magazine article implicating him and Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and Pastor "Boy" Saycon in the foiled coup.

In a letter to the NBI, Lim said he "did not conspire with anyone against the President and neither did I talk to Mr. Saycon as reported" in the Time article.

But NBI officer in charge Nestor Mantaring said that while Lim denied having knowledge of the alleged conversation with Saycon, the general did not dismiss the possibility of talking to Saycon on Feb. 23.

The Philippine Army leadership apparently sees nothing wrong in the First Scout Ranger Regiment's soliciting P4 million from ousted President Estrada.

Maj. Bartolome Bacarro, an Army spokesman, said what mattered was that the solicitation was made in the name of the Scout Rangers' cooperative and that the money appeared to be intact. With Gil C. Cabangan, Dona Pazibugan and AFP



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PSALM, through its 2006 Corporate Operating Budget intends to apply the sum of Fourteen Million Three Hundred Thirty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Forty Pesos (P14,339,640.00) being the total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the above project. Bids received that exceed the ABC for each Schedule shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The PROCURING ENTITY now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Procurement of Various Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Resources for the Corporation.

Schedule	ITEM	QUANTITY	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
I	Desktop Computers	50 sets	P 6,050,200.00
	Notebook Computers	10 sets	
	Network Laser Printer	4 sets	
II	Digital Imaging/Document Scanner	1 set	P 420,000.00
	Digital Imaging/Document Scanner (High Speed)		
III	Storage Area Network (SAN) solution components for business continuity requirement	1 lot	P 5,600,000.00
IV	LCD Projector with Document Reader	1 set	P 158,800.00
V	Upgrade and Renewal of Anti-Virus for 102 users and Additional 148 users license		P 1,862,840.00
VI	Server Raid Controller for IBM xSeries Server	2 sets	P 240,800.00
	Local Area Network (LAN) Tester with Toner Tracer	1 set	
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>P14,339,640.00</b>

The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens/holders, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to R.A. 5183. Only Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the PROCURING ENTITY and inspect the Bidding Documents starting March 10, 2006 at the address given below from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below from March 10 to 16, 2006 and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00), either in cash or check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The PROCURING ENTITY will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Interested parties who have purchased a complete set of Bidding Documents on March 17, 2006, 4:00 PM at the PSALM Boardroom, 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 AM of March 30, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in an amount, in Philippine Peso, equivalent to one percent (1%). If in the form of cash, cashier's or certified check, or irrevocable letter of credit, or one and one-half percent (1 1/2%), if in the form of bank guarantee, computed on the basis of the total ABC for the Schedules for which bids will be submitted.

Only bids submitted in conformity with the Bid Form and Bid Price Schedule provided shall be accepted. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on March 30, 2006 10:00 AM at PSALM Boardroom, 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders or representatives who choose to attend the proceedings.

The PROCURING ENTITY reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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(SGD) FROILAN A. TAMPOONCO Acting Chairman, PSALM Bids and Award Committee

(DIB) March 9 & 16, 2006

# Sequestration of 4 Tan firms revoked

By Nelson F. Flores

THE SANDIGANBAYAN FIFTH DIVISION yesterday revoked the government's sequestration of four firms owned by taipan Lucio Tan after the Presidential Commission on Good Government failed to prove the legality of the seizure orders issued in 1986.

In a 59-page decision issued last March 2 by Justice Teresita Diaz Baldos, the antigraft court ordered the government to cease from further involvement in the control and management of Allied Banking Corp., Fortune Tobacco Corp., Foremost Farms and Shareholders Inc.

The antigraft court declared as null and void the writs of sequestration issued against Tan's shares in Allied Bank, Foremost Farms, Fortune Tobacco and Shareholders.

The Sandigan also nullified the writs of sequestration issued on the shares of stock of Mariano Tanengian, Iris Holdings and Development Corp., Virgo Holdings and Development Corp., and Jewel Holdings, Inc. in the four companies.

"The Court finds and so holds that the questioned writs of sequestration were issued without the requisite *prima facie* factual foundation that the properties covered thereby are 'ill-gotten' wealth. There is sufficient reason to impel this Court to declare them as null and void and to terminate the role of government as conservator of the properties covered thereby," the Sandiganbayan ruling said.

## Sandigan orders arrest of general's family

By Nelson F. Flores

THE SANDIGANBAYAN YESTERDAY ORDERED the arrest of the wife and three sons of retired Armed Forces comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos P. Garcia in connection with a P303-million plunder case filed against all five of them by the Ombudsman nearly a year ago.

Justice Edilberto Sandoval, chair of the Sandiganbayan's Second Division, provided for no bail in issuing the order against Garcia's wife Clarita and their children, Ian Carl, Juan Paulo and Timothy Mark.

Garcia himself, who was sentenced by a military court last December to two years at hard labor, has been detained at Camp

Fifth Division Associate Justices Roland B. Jurado and division chair Ma. Cristina Cortez-Estrada concurred with Baldos' decision which came more than six years after they were filed before the Sandiganbayan.

In September 1986, Tan and his co-petitioners asked the Supreme Court to nullify the sequestration orders but the high court referred the matter to the Sandiganbayan on Feb. 15, 1990.

The petitioners challenged the PCGG takeover on the grounds that the writs were void because they were signed by only two members of the commission; the writs have lapsed into ineffectivity for lack of judicial confirmation that the properties they covered were ill-gotten wealth; and that the writs were issued despite the absence of a *prima facie* evidence that the subject firms constitute ill-gotten wealth.

The Sandiganbayan overruled the first argument noting that signatures by two PCGG commissioners were all that was needed to make them valid.

Likewise, it held that the writs did not expire because the PCGG filed the case within the required six-month period from the ratification of the 1987 Constitution.

However, it found merit in the third ground raised by Tan and his co-petitioners, noting that there was nothing in the 190 pieces of documentary evidence submitted by the government that would support the issuance of the writs of sequestration.

## PNP seeks custody of 5 party-list solons

By Luige A. del Puerto and Norman Bordadora

THE POLICE YESTERDAY pressed for the custody of five militant lawmakers charged with rebellion but said they would not force their way if the House of Representatives would reject their request, a police spokesperson said.

Party-list Representatives Satur Ocampo, Liza Maza, Joel Virador, Rafael Mariano and Teodoro Casilio were earlier placed under the custody of House Speaker Jose de Venecia.

The Philippine National Police indicated that the five would be detained at the PNP Custodial Center in Camp Crame once Congress turns over the lawmakers to them.

The Custodial Center holds a few high-profile persons suspect-

ed of involvement in criminal and terroristic activities, such as the notorious police renegade Rizal Alih.

Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran, another lawmaker charged with rebellion, was brought to the same detention center before he was transferred to the PNP General Hospital.

After Maza left Congress for the Senate on Monday night, the police petitioned the Department of Justice seeking custody of the five lawmakers.

"We are in the waiting mode at this time," said police spokesperson Sr. Supt. Samuel Pagdilao. "We will have to wait for the ruling of the DOJ."

The police officer assured the five congressmen and their supporters that none would be arrested should a preliminary investigation push through at the DOJ.

Noli has high hopes for doomed Filipina

By Nikko Dizon

VICE PRESIDENT Noli de Castro arrived yesterday from Kuwait, hopeful that Filipino worker Marilou Ranario would be spared from the death penalty by the government of the oil-rich country.

"I feel that we have hope that even if we won't be able to get the victim's family to forgive Ranario, at least her punishment could be lowered.

These were the words of the emir himself," De Castro told reporters at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

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## Pinoy toddler to undergo liver transplant in HK

THANKS TO GENEROUS DONORS, A sick Filipino boy will finally undergo a liver transplant today in Hong Kong, with his own mother serving as donor.

The latest to contribute and finally

enable the toddler's family to raise the amount required in the two surgeries was a Singaporean couple, the Department of Foreign Affairs reported yesterday.

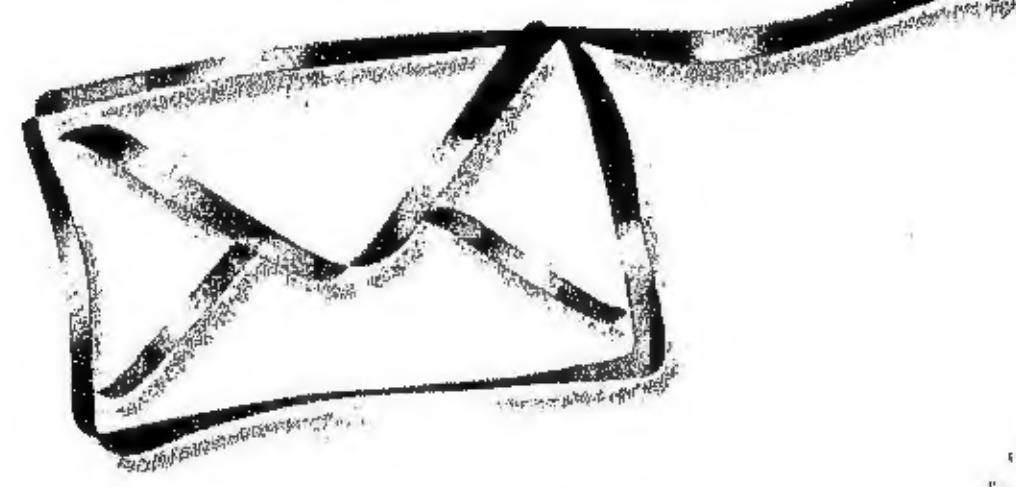
The couple, who requested

anonymity, donated HK\$250,000 (P1.6 million) to help save the life of two-and-a-half year-old Mark Jairus Mendoza, according to the Philippine consulate in the former British colony.

Volt Contreras

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# Philippine Institute for Supply Management

## SUPPLYLINK INTRODUCTION

Supplylink 2006 is the Philippine Institute for Supply Management's 14th Annual Conference and Trade Exhibit. Supplylink 2006 highlights supply chain transformation as the most effective way of making a difference in business organizations. The event tackles the different facets of supply chain management on supply and general management, strategic sourcing, supplier relationship management, services and logistics providing its participants with a comprehensive view of how supply chains can be transformed to complement and contribute to business objectives.

Considered as the country's largest gathering of top supply management professionals, Supplylink features a priceless face-to-face educational experience through our short courses, topnotch speakers and networking opportunities. More so, it showcases the latest product innovations in the areas of office equipment, materials handling and storage, transportation and distribution, MRO supplies, IT application, among others.

Through the years, PISM has been consistently providing its delegates the most stimulating, appropriate and relevant information in the purchasing and supply chain management context.

## ABOUT PISM

Founded in 1968, Philippine Institute for Supply Management (PISM) remains to be at the forefront of the country's supply management excellence. PISM, a non-stock, non-profit organization of supply management professionals, champions new systems, techniques and strategic practices.

From its 98 member companies during its first year, PISM has close to 300 member companies coming from vari-

ous industries located in Metro Manila and 3 provincial chapters to boot.

Through its seminars, industry group forum, conferences and other activities, PISM continues to be an effective source of new methods, technologies and ideas from the business world. The association also serves as a venue for networking and benchmarking among its members.

PISM's mission is "To be a key contributor to our member companies' success and to the country's global competitiveness by championing the upliftment of the supply management profession and the continuous development of its practitioners to the highest ethical and world class standards".

PISM also envisions itself to be a world class prime mover and resource center of supply chain management and leadership excellence in Asia.

True to its vision and mission, PISM is continuously strengthening its alliances with international organizations. It is a C.P.M. (Certified Purchasing Manager) allied member of the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) based in Arizona, USA, an affiliate of the International Federation of Purchasing and Supply Management (IFPSM) based in Netherlands and the International Trade Center - United Nations (ITC-UNCTAD CNUCED WTO OUC).

## C.P.M. REVIEW PROGRAM

PISM as an allied member of the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) based in Arizona, USA offers the globally recognized designation for supply chain management professionals. The Certified Purchasing Manager (C.P.M.) review program is designed for experienced supply managers and focuses on managerial and leadership skills, plus a variety of specialized functions designed to enhance the effectiveness of supply managers within their organization.

## DIPLOMA IN PURCHASING AND SUPPLY MANAGEMENT

In February 2003, PISM in partnership with the De La Salle College of St. Benilde School of Professional and Continuing Education launched the six-module, 22-day post graduate program intended for professionals and fresh college graduates who are new to the purchasing and supply management profession. Each module completed entitles each student with a certificate while completion of all modules entitles each student with a diploma.

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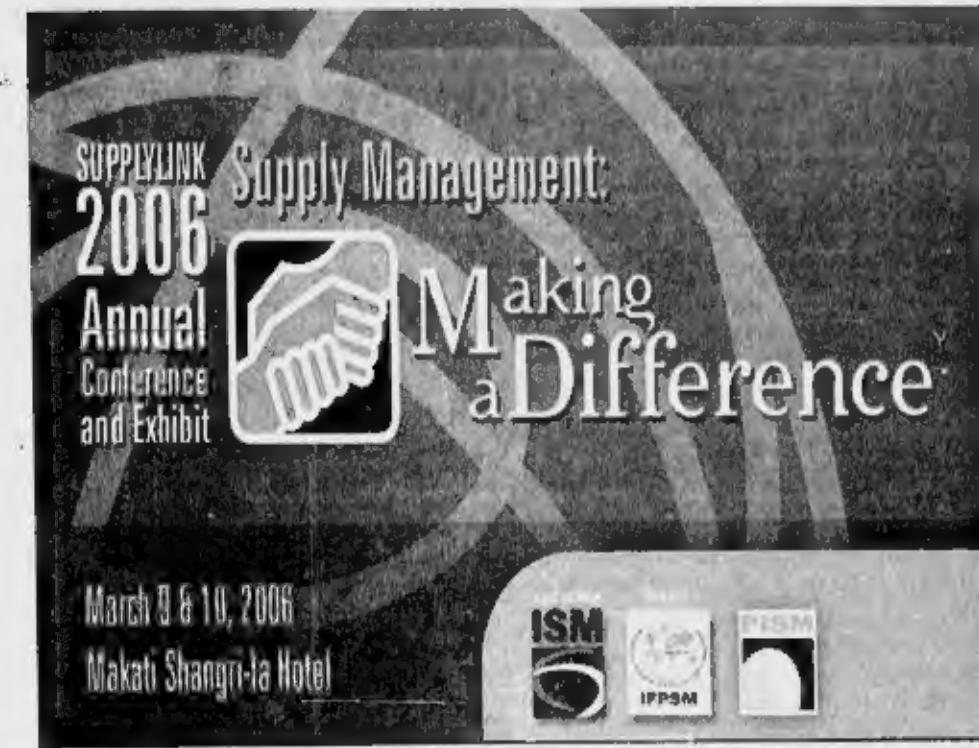
## ADMINISTRATION MAJOR IN PURCHASING AND SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

PISM in partnership with the University of Makati offers the Asia's first college degree program in purchasing and supply chain management. Composed of 13 major subjects and a total of 1,000 hours of OJT, the course aims to equip its graduates with a working knowledge of purchasing and supply chain management by transforming the classroom setup into a training ground of students as the Professional Development Commission trainees transfer their knowledge based on years of professional experience.

## PROFESSIONAL SEMINARS

PISM values the professional development of the supply chain practitioner. To achieve this, we regularly conduct public and in-house seminars aimed at improving their skills and know-how.

Our courses start with fundamentals leading to advanced courses and general management. Specific courses or programs can be also tailor made to the requirements of each company or institution.



March 8-10, 2006

Makati Shangri-La Hotel



## Messages



Warmest greetings to the Philippine Institute for Supply Management (PISM) as you hold the 14th National Conference and Trade Exhibit entitled, "SUPPLYLINK 2006." Your theme, "Supply Management: Making A Difference," indicates your earnest desire to provide industrial users and customers with latest technology and products that are helpful in purchasing and materials management. May this trade showcase serve as an effective springboard for the application of the latest technologies in our various industries. By being the best in your field of supply management, you assist your clients into becoming the best they can be in the global market. Let us work hand-in-hand to create a conducive working environment for all local and foreign investors. We can play to our strengths by showing the best of our workers. We can beat the odds and attain a better life for our people.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

(SGD.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO  
President, Republic of the Philippines



Supply Management is a function stepping into the limelight, taking center stage amid all the activities that make business and organizations successful. There is thus an increasing need for supply professionals to be equipped with the skill set combination of functional core competencies and leadership qualities that will allow them to respond to this new role. Recognizing this need and the widening scope of supply management, PISM is leading the charts to be at the forefront of the profession. Its various programs and activities are dedicated not only to providing its members and others with the key educational, informational and networking tools to succeed but also to elevating and promoting supply management throughout the business world. One such offering is our annual conference and trade exhibit. The conference committee, the board of directors, the secretariat and TeamAsia, our event organizer, have worked hard to give you Supplylink 2006: Making A Difference. I hope that you are able to maximize all the learning and networking opportunities it offers.

Marawing Salamat.

(SGD.) MINERVA M. AGAS  
President, PISM



The organizing committee and myself would like to welcome you to the 14th Philippine Institute for Supply Management (PISM) Annual Conference and Trade Exhibit - Supplylink 2006. This year's theme: "Supply Management: Making A Difference" speaks for itself. The Purchasing and Supply Management profession has helped a lot in today's corporations' bottomline. Constantly, Purchase and Supply Management professionals are challenged to remain updated in this ever-changing environment. Supplylink 2006 kicks off with an Executive Forum for Supply Management Heads. A mix of foreign and local speakers for our 21 technical sessions on different aspects of the supply management profession will give us inputs, insights and solutions to help us cope with today's trends and challenges.

(SGD.) ANGEL V. GATCHALIAN, JR., C.P.M.  
1st Vice President, PISM



Welcome to the Supplylink 2006 entitled Supply Management: Making A Difference. We are proud to present to you our line-up of select and highly relevant technical and general management topics to put you in the forefront of current trends and practices in supply management whether your role is operational or on the functional or strategic management. There are 6 tracks with 21 topics arranged to maximize exposure and learning. We want you to make a difference. This year we have invited key executives of member companies in charge of supply management for a special session called Executive Forum to address supply management issues at that level. Once again we hope that you will benefit from this year's conference that achieves one of the institute key objectives, that is, to equip its members and other practitioners of supply chain management particularly in the field of procurement and materials management with the new perspectives, opportunities and linkages that will enable them to focus with confidence to drive their companies to greater competitiveness through supply chain innovation. On behalf of the officers and directors of the Philippine Institute for Supply Management and the Supplylink 2006 committee, MABUHAY!

(SGD.) PAUL A. HAMOY  
Supplylink2 Director-in-charge, PISM



The supply management function has become a critical competitive arena of organizations today brought about by the continuous pressure to reduce cost, improve quality and faster time-to-market. Organizations who are better equipped and who are more efficient supply management are in better position to a sustainable competitiveness. The Philippine Institute for Supply Management (PISM) has, through the years, been at the forefront in uplifting and equipping the competency, knowledge and skills of its membership, the supply management professionals, to be a world class contributor in their respective organizations. This is achieved through continuous research and development, benchmarking of best practices, trainings, seminars and conferences. Today we are holding our 2006 Supplylink, an annual conference geared towards sharing of best practices in the area of supply management. Our theme for this year is very appropriate and timely. For supply management has become the forefront of every organization's success. Truly, Supply Management is Making A Difference in organizations today.

On behalf of PISM's officers and board of directors, welcome, enjoy and learn. Let's Make A Difference.

(SGD.) HILARIO ROMIL A. ACOSTA, JR., C.P.M.  
Supplylink2 Director-in-charge, PISM

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BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES  
PROCLAMATION NO. 1020

DECLARING THE PERIOD FROM MARCH 8 TO 10, 2006 AS

PURCHASING & SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT WEEK

WHEREAS the Philippine Institute for Supply Management (PISM) is a non-stock, non-profit organization of purchasing and materials managers of the country's top corporations;

WHEREAS purchasing and materials managers and PISM help upgrade the quality and competitiveness of Philippine goods and services for both the domestic and foreign markets;

WHEREAS it is desirable that the important role played by the purchasing and materials managers in commerce and industry be brought to the attention of the people;

WHEREAS the PISM will celebrate its 14th National Convention and Exhibit this year called SUPPLYLINK 2006, with the theme "SUPPLY MANAGEMENT: MAKING A DIFFERENCE".

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby declare the period from March 8 to 10, 2006 as Purchasing and Supply Chain Management Week.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Republic of the Philippines to be affixed.

Done in the City of Manila, this 2nd day of March, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.



# 17 liable for stampede; criminal charges set

From page A1  
not performing their duties under the law."

"We... deplore the manner by which the NBI has arrived at its conclusions and recommendations in seeking to charge ABS-CBN officials and employees perceived to be liable without factual or legal basis, as well as whitewashing the clear liabilities of others responsible," it said.

The public information officer of the Pasci government apologized and said an official statement would be issued shortly. "Bukar na po, pasensya na po," he said.

## PIM prize

Thousands of fans, mostly elderly women from poor communities, had camped out at the PhilSports gates days before the event, hoping to get into the first-anniversary show of "Wowowee" and win prizes including P1 million.

In the early morning of Feb. 4, the fans rushed to one of the gates after it became apparent that not everyone would get tickets to the show.

Security guards shut the gate, and those at the front were crushed to death.

The other officers and employees of ABS-CBN facing charges are Marilou Almaden, executive producer; Morty Stewart, executive producer and "Wowowee" manager; Harold James Nueva, "Wowowee" associate producer for sets; Norberto Vidanes, "Wowowee" director; Rey Cayabab, assistant location manager and security coordinator; Francisco Rivera, location manager; Mel Feliciano, "Wowowee" assistant director; and Jean Owen Garcia, "Wowowee" floor director.

Also facing the same charges are Jess Velardo, PhilSports building administrator; Erlinda Reis, PhilSports booking and

events coordinator; Rosenbar Viloria, staff director for operations of Goldlink Security and Allied Services Inc.; and Wilfron Onanad and Chito Payumo, Goldlink security in charge.

## First person called

According to NBI National Capital Region chief Ruel Lasala, Concio, who heads ABS-CBN's Entertainment Group, approved the plans for the anniversary show.

"Executive producer Almaden, in her affidavit, said Concio was the first person she called when she learned of the stampede," Lasala said in a press conference at the NBI.

Lasala also said Revillame was "consistent in his invitation" to "Wowowee" fans to go to the PhilSports Arena for the anniversary show, as shown in ABS-CBN video tapes from Jan. 30 to Feb. 3.

Revillame had earlier confirmed previous reports that he

visited the site days before the stampede. But he said in his affidavit that he was not able to learn the actual number of people massing within the premises because the areas he visited were "select and limited."

But Lasala said Revillame "should have been able to assess the number of people there and [desisted from] calling on the fans to proceed to the site on Feb. 3, where an estimated crowd of 17,000 had already gathered."

Lasala also said that based on the statements of witnesses, people had begun to gather at the venue on Jan. 30 and camped outside the PhilSports Arena for almost five days.

## Emergency meeting

"The people slept, urinated and even defecated in the area, in order to ensure their place in the line," he said, adding:

"The tension was even height-

ened when the game show staff announced that not everyone would be allowed to enter the venue."

Alarmed at the huge turnout of people, the "Wowowee" personnel held an emergency meeting the night before the stampede, Lasala said.

"They decided to give out 40 raffle tickets promising P200,000 worth of cash prizes to make the non-winning fans go home. But the plan did not work," he said.

When the gate on Capt. Javier Street was closed at past 6 a.m. after the fans started jostling each other, a stampede ensued, he said.

Lasala recounted a "horrific" incident wherein fans still demanded tickets despite the stampede.

"ABS-CBN apparently lacked foresight in preventing the tragedy from happening," Lasala said.

"If you are the event host, you must be responsible for the preparations," he said. "They

should have had a clear-cut, comprehensive security plan, which included crowd control and contingency plans."

## 'Proper authority'

ABS-CBN said it would submit to any preliminary investigation conducted by the DOJ, which, it pointed out, "should be the proper authority" to conduct such a probe.

"The NBI has informed us that it has submitted to the DOJ 'only recommendations' and has not yet filed a criminal complaint for negligence. We have yet to see a copy of this report," the network said.

It added: "Significantly, no other complaints have as yet been filed, and yet the NBI chose to lodge those unfounded recommendations."

"We maintain our confidence in the justice system and will see the NBI [at] the DOJ and in the courts."

With a report from DJ Yap

# Don't blame GMA for abuses, say President's men

By Armand N. Nocum

IF THERE WERE ABUSES COMMITTED by police and the military during the weeklong state of national emergency, President Macapagal-Arroyo could not be blamed for them, Malacañang's legal eagles say.

In separate interviews yesterday, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez

and Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo said there was no way the President could oversee the entire implementation of Presidential Proclamation No. 1017.

On Friday Ms Arroyo lifted her Feb. 24 emergency proclamation, saying a plot to oust her by a "cabal" of communist guerrillas, disgruntled soldiers, politicians and businessmen had been aborted.

But civil rights groups questioned the legality of the proclamation and protested alleged abuses of basic rights, pointing to the raid on The Daily Tribune and arrests without warrants.

"You can't blame the President for unlawful application of the law," Benipayo told reporters at the end of oral arguments on seven petitions assailing the constitutionality of PP 1017 before the Supreme Court on Tuesday.

1017 did not contain a provision authorizing warrantless arrests and searches, raids and confessions.

Gonzales said there "could have been violations" of the intent of PP 1017, but he explained that there could be difficulty in enforcing the law to the letter.

"No implementation is perfect," Gonzalez said.

During Tuesday's hearing, Benipayo told the court justices that

acts should not be "condoned."

"If at all, the erring officers may independently be made answerable for such unwanted acts, for which the appropriate remedy is given under existing administrative civil and penal laws," Benipayo added.

Benipayo asked the high tribunal to compel the petitioners to go after violators of civil liberties in court.

# One woman in women's mind on Women's Day

From page A1

exactly a year ago yesterday

"I equate her leadership skills to being a woman is, I think, an oxymoron, because she just happened to be a woman," said Soliman, who was wearing a black shirt festooned with anti-Arroyo stickers.

## Unprecedented

"Everything that she's been doing to cover up the crime has been what I'd call, to the point of being ruthless, a side that I never thought existed in her," Soliman said.

Former Vice President Teofisto

Guingona, ever visible in protest actions, was also present at the march.

"I was invited here today because I'm joining the crusade for respect for women, especially since they become leaders and can show that they are just as good as men," said Guingona.

Tagged "Martsa ng Kababaihan," the activity took protesters through Ayala Avenue in both directions, then around Paseo de Roxas.

Organizers called it an unprecedented gathering of groups advocating women's rights from the militant and religious sectors, the middle

force, and the political opposition.

Police estimated the crowd at 5,500, roughly 70 percent of whom were women. Organizers said the gathering peaked at 10,000.

Members of militant umbrella organizations Laban ng Masa and Bayan, which brought a large contingent through the women's alliance Gabriela, marched down the same roads in Makati's Central Business District at 3 p.m. yesterday.

Supporters of Ms Arroyo's opponents in the May 2004 elec-

tions also streamed into Ayala Avenue: the National Coordinating Council for Volunteers, which supported the late actor and opposition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr., and Bangon Women, an organization under Bangon Pilipinas of evangelist Bro. Eddie Villanueva, also a presidential candidate.

The Black and White Movement, a middle-classes organization born at the height of the anti-Arroyo protests last year, also joined the activity.

Red flags marked a sea of pur-

ple and pink banners hoisted by protesters chanting "Never Again! Never Again! Never Again to Martial Law!" and "Sigaw ng Kababaihan, Gloria Resign!"

At 5 p.m., a program of speeches and songs began on a convertible truck parked in front of the Ninoy Aquino Monument.

## Antiriot cops

Police were on standby throughout the activity, with more than 100 antiriot cops at the ready.

The Makati Police Department

(MPD) said City Hall had granted a permit for the activity until 7 p.m. The protesters dispersed peacefully at 7:15 p.m.

MPD chief Senior Supt. Marietto Valerio lamented that the activity, which was supposed to be a celebration of Women's Day, turned out to be like any other anti-Arroyo rally.

He said organizers had promised not to carry banners with anti-administration messages but the protesters still managed to bring large streamers bearing the words "Oust Gloria!"

# Antiriot cops mar women's rally, arrest Rep. Risa Baraquel

From page A1  
tury immunity against the Quezon City police for arresting her.

## Blocked by cops

Earlier in the day Baraquel, Manila and hundreds of other women massed at the Mabuhay Rotonda at the boundary between Quezon City and Manila, intending to march on Mendiola for a protest rally. But they were blocked by a phalanx of policemen.

Undeterred, the women of the APL and Akbayan, among other groups, held a program at the rotunda raising women's issues and demanding Ms Arroyo's ouster.

After an hour-long negotiation, San Diego gave them five minutes to disperse. But the women stood their ground—until

the policemen started shoving them using shields and batons.

Some of the women and their male colleagues scattered and ran away; some fought back by throwing rocks, prompting the cops to give chase.

At around 11:45 a.m., policemen and women tried to escort Baraquel toward a police van.

She resisted, telling them not to touch her and yelling at the cops not to hurt the demonstrators.

## Insult

Jean Enriquez of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women-Asia Pacific said the dispersal was an "insult" to the women who had no plan of violence in staging the protest action.

"The violence came from their

end," she said, referring to the police.

San Diego justified the dispersal, saying it was necessary to restore order along Espana Street, which had been closed to traffic during the women's program.

He said the police had allowed the groups to hold their program until 11:30 a.m. and even extended that deadline by 10 minutes, then five minutes more, before proceeding with the dispersal.

"I thought PP 1017 has been lifted. Apparently, violating human rights has not been lifted yet," said Rose Tajano of Kanlungan.

Baraquel added: "[Ms Arroyo] exemplifies oppression, and this is clearly manifested by her tyrannical tendencies. First, she declared PP 1017, and now even af-

ter it was lifted, her administration continues to repress people's rights."

Aside from demanding the President's ouster, the women raised gender issues such as violence against women, child pornography and the Subic rape case, among other things.

## In the Visayas

Anti-Arroyo rallies were also held in key cities in the Visayas in commemoration of International Women's Day.

Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra, wearing a black armband like most of his priests, led about 8,000 Negrenses in a march to the city's public plaza to say "never again" to martial law and PP 1017.

The bishop said the black armbands stood for the death of human rights, of the liberal and free space for people to speak out and air their grievances, and, in a sense, of democracy.

"If truth liberates, then all falsehoods enslave. A nation that is fed and thrives on lies, half-truths and double-talk is not truly free. It is under the shackles of the 'father of lies,'" Navarra said in a pastoral letter he read during the rally.

In Iloilo, Aklan and Capiz, protesters were unfazed by Ms Arroyo's earlier statement that she might again use emergency powers.

Around 1,500 protesters led by the militant women's group Gabriela and the Bagong

Alyansang Makabayan assembled in front of the University of the Philippines in the Visayas campus in Iloilo City before marching to the Iloilo Rotary Amphitheater where they held a program and a mini-concert.

Bayan-Panay spokesperson Aurelio Bosque said the rally was also a "victory march" for the lifting of PP 1017.

"The determined opposition and defiance of the people against her tyrannical rule forced her to lift the order. But we will remain vigilant and vow to fight back if the suppression of our civil rights continues," said Bosque.

With reports from Carla R. Gomes, Nestor Burgos Jr. and Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau

# GMA invocation of God angers religious leaders

From page A1

gious leaders.

Bro. Eddie Villanueva, head of the 2-million-strong Jesus is Lord Movement and Bangon Pilipinas, cautioned Ms Arroyo against using God's name "in vain."

"How can cheating or the manipulation of election results, the unabated graft and corruption in the government, the suppression of civil and political rights... be ever part of God's plan or choice?" the evangelist said in an e-mail to the INQUIRER.

In a 30-minute interview on dzBB radio on Tuesday, the 58-year-old President said that "God had willed her being the country's leader."

"I believe that I am here now because that is the plan of God for me and for us," she said.

Ms Arroyo has been hounded by allegations she stole the May 2004 presidential election. The charges stemmed from revelations in wiretapped conversations during the balloting purportedly between her and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Gartillano.

Opposition lawmakers have announced plans to revive impeachment proceedings against

Ms Arroyo. Last year, her majority allies in the House killed the process on a technicality. Without a closure to what has been called the "Hello Gari" controversy, doubts about Ms Arroyo's legitimacy persist.

## 'Back to Hello, Gari'

Lips Archbishop Ramon Arguelles expressed doubt that God will want to get involved in Philippine politics.

"If the President says so, she better not fail God," Arguelles said. "What she claims is a very serious responsibility. She can go so deep in hell if she does not behave like someone close to God."

If indeed she were chosen by God, Ms Arroyo should steer the country toward observing God's commandment, particularly against stealing and bearing false witness, the prelate said.

"Whether she is God's choice for this time or not, she, as well as all Filipinos who believe in God, should have a change of heart and promote God's best designs for our people, especially the poor," Arguelles said.

Borongan Bishop Leonardo Medroso said anybody could

claim the hand of God but "whether it's true or not based on reality is always the question."

Medroso earlier urged the administration to heed the advice in the Catholic bishops' pastoral letter calling for a relentless search for the truth behind the "Hello Gari" controversy.

## Filipinos want GMA out

</

# LPG shows poverty now wears a woman's face

From page A1

cooked over charcoal.

This finding has been validated by an increase in demand for clay stove burners in Metro Manila, she said. Other housewives in middle- and low-income households have started using wood and kerosene.

Guan said that for women LPG was the most relevant indication that the political crisis was the result of the actual economic condition and not due to the political opposition.

The LPG Industry Association of the Philippines confirms that LPG sales have gone down since last year.

"It started in May 2005 due to the continued price increase," said Mercedita Pastrana, executive director of the LPG industry association.

LPG prices, which hit the P500 level in mid-November last year, rose to P552 per 11-kg cylinder in Metro Manila at the beginning of March this year.

Currently, LPG is sold at P490 to P540 per 11-kg cylinder, an increase of more than 100 percent from its price in the same period in 2002.

## LPG sales drop

"We really felt the drop. Nowadays, LPG can sell for as high as P560. We're living in tough times," said Bernardo Bolisay, president of the LPG Refillers Association of the Philippines.

Bolisay noted a drop in sales, which he said started in November 2005 with the imposition of the 10-percent expanded value-added tax. The VAT rate was raised to 12 percent last month.

In San Fernando, Pampanga, Best Gas Refilling Plant saw a 30-percent



**ADJUSTING** the prices inside a store in Paseo, Manila, does not make it any less expensive to the marginalized.

**Oil firms rolled back their LPG prices by a peso per kilo last week.** REH ZAMORA

drop in sales in February compared to the sales of the same month last year, Bolisay said.

## 10-percent decline nationwide

Nationwide, the drop in LPG sales was about 10 percent, but the decline was greater in the Visayas and Mindanao, where alternative sources of energy abound, according to Pas- trana.

She said consumers in Luzon may also have resorted to using kerosene or even charcoal.

One can cook meals for the day with just P10 to P20 worth of kerosene.

"But if we compute that, spending P20 a day will amount to P600 a month. A refill of an 11-kg LPG costs around P500," Pastrana said.

Because of the high cost of 11-kg LPG tanks, the Department of Energy is encouraging suppliers to offer cooking gas in tanks with capacities of as little as 1 kg. The small tanks will cost a little more than P60.

Bolisay noted that people were resorting to charcoal, firewood or even coconut husk.

## Peso's reduced purchasing power

Prices of basic goods and services rose by an average of 7.6 percent in February, the highest in eight months.

Guan said President Macapagal-Arroyo's statements about a strong peso masked the reduction in the peso's purchasing power from 79.2 centavos in January 2005 to 74.2 centavos in January.

Guan said Ms Arroyo "has been ecstatic" about the peso's strength and the growth in portfolio investments.

But both indicators rely heavily on the health of the overseas Filipino market, Guan said. Remittances by overseas Filipino workers rose to \$10.7 billion in 2005.

She said portfolio investments were not a reliable economic barometer because they do not directly result in new jobs as they are not injected into local industries.

These investments, according to Guan, are immediately withdrawn at the slightest hint of instability.

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# Customs men who helped Lee sacked

By Lella B. Salaverría

**CUSTOMS COMMISSIONER** Napoleon Morales yesterday ordered the relief of all Bureau of Customs personnel involved in facilitating

the release of a plastic resin shipment that suspected smuggler Samuel Lee allegedly ordered diverted from a customs bonded warehouse to a private corporation.

Morales said he directed Port

of Manila Collector Horacio Suansing to determine who among the port's examiners and appraisers were involved in releasing the plastic resin shipment that was apparently misdeclared

as packaging material.

"Once he determines who are responsible for the release, I asked collector Suansing to relieve them and give them 72 hours to explain why they should not be sanc-

tioned," he said in a phone interview. "We will spare no one."

He added that he expected to learn the identities of the relieved personnel soon, most likely tomorrow.

The customs commissioner also said he ordered the relief of the personnel because they would be subjected to an investigation.

"I also want to follow due process," he added.

## Samuel Lee released after posting P360,000 bail

From page A1

Benjamin de los Santos said last night.

De los Santos is the chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-Criminal Investigation and Detection Division, which arrested Lee on Sunday at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport upon his return from Hong Kong.

Lee was arrested for allegedly ordering the diversion of a shipment of plastic resin from a customs bonded warehouse to a company in Valenzuela City.

The Department of Justice recommended earlier yesterday that Lee, who was brought to the de-

partment for inquest on Tuesday, be slapped with three counts of smuggling.

Lee was among the suspected smugglers named at a recent Senate hearing, along with Vicki Tioh and Lucio Lao Go, who are purportedly close to the First Gentleman.

Lee is considered "untouchable and well-entrenched" in the Bureau of Customs, according to the police, quoting sources in the bureau's intelligence units.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said Lee was not "untouchable," assuring that there will be no whitewash in the conduct of preliminary investigation.

Pearing that Lee might flee,

Gonzalez ordered the Bureau of Immigration to put the suspected smuggler under a hold-departure order.

A team composed of State Prosecutor Hazel Decena-Valdez and Prosecuting Attorney Olivia Torrevillas, which conducted an inquest on Lee and his alleged cohorts—Ronhina Alojado, Jocelyn Antos, Butch Go and Rolando Cipriano—recommended that the accused be slapped with three counts of smuggling.

Lee earlier waived his right to a preliminary investigation.

The inquest team, however, recommended that the charges against Lee's alleged cohorts be referred for preliminary investigation as they have been at-large during the inquest.

"no valid case" for Lee's arrest. CIDG operatives said the arrest was valid because it was made while the 41-year-old Lee was allegedly trying to hand over P300,000 to the head of the arresting team, Insp. Pedro Velasco, on Sunday.

lawyers also posted a surety bond for an estafa case he was facing in Manila. The bail for the estafa charge was set at P160,000.

The CIDG has charged Lee with violating the Tariff and Customs Code for allegedly diverting three container vans full of plastic resin from the Bureau of Customs.

"Through a dummy corporation, Lontext Enterprises Inc., managed by Ronhina Alojado, suspect Lee imported raw materials, high density polyethylene resins from Singapore and filed an import entry through misdeclaration (of the resins) as raw materials and grossly undervalued the shipments in three containers," a police report had said.

The police did not find "mind-boggling" Lee's ability to produce P300,000 while under detention.

He was not locked up in a cell but detained in a police office. His lawyers and family members had access to him, the police said.

The police, however, were glad that Casalang had amended her first resolution.

"People commit mistakes and we are given opportunity to correct, and in the spirit of an orderly administration of justice, we always seek mutual cooperation with the other pillars of the judiciary," De los Santos said.

## Singapore rewards 2 Filipinas with cash

From page A1

for 19 years for the family of Singaporean Loke Lai Kuen. She was cited "for looking after and caring for two sick members of the family while also attending to household work."

Garcia has been employed by the family of Mae Heng for six years. She has looked after Heng's young son who has a motor-planning speech disorder.

Garcia even took a sign language course "to better understand her ward and help out in his therapy," the DFA reported.

Some 150,000 women work as maids in Singapore, mainly from Indonesia, the Philippines and Sri

Lanka. Filipino domestic helpers include well-schooled women—former professionals, teachers, health workers, office employees and college graduates—often considered to have an advantage over other Southeast Asian nationalities because of their fluency in English.

**Gov't-sponsored** The government-sponsored awards were given on Feb. 23 on the occasion of Singapore's National Foreign Workers Day, DFA spokesperson Gilbert Asuque said, quoting a report from the Philippine Embassy in Singapore.

The Filipino winners were chosen from over 300 nominations received by the organizers. A total of 13 awards were handed out during the celebration, the DFA said.

### Top Singapore employers

Among the runners-up for the "Employer of the Year" award was Tay Boon Sun, a Singaporean who has hired a Filipina, Encarnacion Montales, as maid in his household for the past 20 years.

Philippine Ambassador to Singapore Belen R. Anota congratulated Quinton and Garcia, saying "their winning only showed the Filipinos' commitment to their respective jobs."

In 1995, Singapore refused to heed the Philippine government's

appeals to stay the execution of Contemplacion, sparking street protests in Manila and straining diplomatic ties between the two neighbors.

A Singaporean court convicted Contemplacion, 42, of killing another Filipino maid, Delia Maga, and her ward, a 4-year-old Singaporean boy—crimes that the condemned maid denied until her death.

Anti-Singapore sentiments were briefly revived in September last year when Singaporean authorities arrested and charged another Filipino maid, Guen Aquilar, 29, with the gruesome murder of another Filipino maid, Jane La Puebla, 26.

## 'Superman's' widow dies of lung cancer; 44

From page A1

around the world—her death seemed sudden. As recently as Jan. 12, she looked healthy and happy as she belted out Carole King's "Now and Forever" at a packed Madison Square Garden during a ceremony honoring hockey star Mark Messier, a friend.

"Unfortunately, that's what happens with this awful disease," said Maggie Goldberg of the Christopher Reeve Foundation, where Dana had succeeded her husband as chair. "You feel good, you're responding and then the downturn."

Those were "the words that saved my life," Christopher said.

and advocate," the Clintons said.

Christopher and Dana married in 1992. Life changed drastically for the young show business couple three years later when Christopher suffered near-total paralysis in a horse-riding accident and almost died.

In his autobiography, "Still Me," Christopher wrote that he suggested early on to his wife, "Maybe we should let me go." She responded, "I'll be with you for the long haul, no matter what. You're still you and I love you."

Those were "the words that saved my life," Christopher said.

### Caregiving for 9 years

For Christopher's remaining nine years, Dana became her husband's constant companion and supporter during the ordeal of his rehabilitation, winning worldwide acclaim and admiration. With her husband, she became an activist in the search for a cure for spinal cord injuries.

"Something miraculous and wonderful happened amidst terrible tragedy, and a whole new dimension of life began to emerge," Dana wrote in a 1999 book, "Care Packages: Letters to Christopher Reeve from Strangers and Other Friends."

### Loving spirit

"The brightest light has gone out," said comedian Robin Williams. "We will forever celebrate her loving spirit."

Former President Bill Clinton and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton described Dana as "a model of tenacity and grace."

"Despite the adversity that she faced, Dana bravely met these challenges and was always an extremely dedicated wife, mother

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From the start, Dana, a non-smoker, expressed confidence she would beat lung cancer. And four months ago, wearing a long formal gown at a fundraising gala for the foundation, Dana provoked wolf whistles from Williams and said she was responding well to treatment.

"I'm beating the odds and defying every statistic the doctors can throw at me," Dana said. "My prognosis looks better all the time."

### Human touch

At about the same time, Dana taped a PBS show, "The New Medicine," about how doctors are paying more attention to a patient's cultural values and lifestyle as part of treatment. In her introduction to the program, she said: "It has become clear to me that high-tech medicine, with all its wonders, often leaves out that all-important human touch."

PBS on Tuesday said that the show would be broadcast as scheduled on March 29.

Survivors include the Reeves' 13-year-old son, Will; two grown stepchildren, Matthew and Alexandra; her father, Charles Morosini; and two sisters.

Goldberg said Will was "in the loving care of family and friends" and that his mother had arranged for his future.

The foundation said no plans for Dana's funeral had been announced.

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# The WORLD

Editor Laverne B. Gueco

## Nearly 100 firms linked to Thaksin facing boycott

BANGKOK—THAI PROTESTERS THREATENED WEDNESDAY TO boycott nearly 100 companies and products linked to Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, ratcheting up the pressure for him to resign.

The boycott list includes several top international brands, such as Toyota, Heineken, Nescafé and Seven-Eleven convenience stores.

"We will see to it that Thai people don't drink Nescafé coffee or buy goods at Seven-Eleven convenience stores," said Parthep Purpongpan, a spokesperson for the anti-Thaksin coalition that has led weekly protests in Bangkok.

The list includes dozens of companies with links to Thaksin's business empire and to his party.

The boycott would begin Thursday if the Singapore investment firm Temasek completes its purchase of Shin Corp., the telecom giant founded by Thaksin, Parthep said.

Thaksin's family sold its nearly 50-percent stake in Shin Corp. to Temasek in late January, making \$1.9 billion in the tax-free deal. Public anger at the deal snowballed into weekly protests and plunged Thailand into political turmoil.

"A boycott is the general right of the Thai public to protest against Shin Corp.'s sale to Temasek," Parthep said.

The People's Alliance for Democracy released a list of nearly 100 boycott targets, including Thailand's largest mobile phone operator, three international airlines and two banks.

Among Shin Corp.'s companies are Thailand's biggest mobile phone operator Advance Info Service (AIS), discount carrier Air Asia, Internet provider CS Loz Info and ITV television station.

## India blasts kill 21, injure 62

LUCKNOW, INDIA—Three separate bomb blasts ripped through the holy Hindu city of Varanasi in India on Tuesday, killing at least 21 people and wounding 62 at a crowded temple and a railway station.

Police also found two other bombs near the city's main cremation site on the banks of the Ganges River, officials said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks.

The authorities put states across India on high alert, fearing the attacks in Hinduism's holiest city could spark communal violence.

The first blast tore into the Hanuman Temple temple—one of the oldest as well as one of the most beloved shrines in the ancient city—when it was packed with faithful carrying out their weekly Tuesday night worship.

Witnesses said the powerful explosion

set off a panicked crush as people scrambled for safety.

"The blast was so powerful that it could be heard across the town, and we have moved five or six badly-burned dead," an eyewitness said.

"Everyone was running. There were corpses lying around," another witness told Aaj Tak news channel. "There

was almost a stampede." Witnesses said a marriage ceremony was taking place at the temple when the blast occurred. They said several students due to appear for exams were also at the temple to offer prayers.

Rescue workers struggled in Varanasi's narrow lanes to cart out the victims, most of whom had injuries on

their legs and on the lower parts of their bodies, people on the scene said.

Within 10 minutes, two more bombs went off in the city's main railway station, said Kamlesh Pathak, the city's deputy administrator. APP

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### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

#### Various Sizes of Carbon Steel Seamless Pipes Under FGT 51966

Approved budget: PHP 2,145,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereon not later than 2:00 p.m. (Procurement Department Office Wall Clock Time) on March 24, 2006. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on March 10, 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to and registered with the PNOC-EDC Procurement and Materials Management Division, at the above address and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereon not later than 2:00 p.m. (Procurement Department Office Wall Clock Time) on March 24, 2006. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission of execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to cancel the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any infirmity in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee II

(PDI-March 2 & 9, 2006)

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**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**  
The Center for Health Development – Northern Mindanao, Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City, is inviting contractors and security services operators to apply for eligibility and to bid for security services for calendar year 2006 with Approved Budget Cost of P876,000.00 sourced out of the G.O.P. appropriations for this Office.  
Timetable of bidding process are as follows.  

Bidding Process	Timeline
Registration of interested contractors	Starts March 9, 2006
Pre-Bidding Conference	March 20, 2006 2:00 PM, DOH-CHD Conference Room
Period of contractors eligibility check	March 10-24, 2006
Opening of Bids	March 27, 2006 2:00 PM, DOH-CHD Conference Room

  
Bid forms will be made available to suppliers/contractors who passed the eligibility check at a non-refundable cost of P500.00  
The Director IV of the DOH-CHD Northern Mindanao, Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City, reserves the right to waive any defect or infirmity in the offers of bids, and rejects any or all bid proposals that may be deemed disadvantageous to the government.  
For further information, please inquire from the Bids and Awards Committee or its Secretariat, or call telephone no. 858-7123, 233-2306, 350-4325, or visit our website at [www.chd10.doh.gov.ph](http://www.chd10.doh.gov.ph) or email us at [chd\\_cdo@yahoo.com](mailto:chd_cdo@yahoo.com).  
(Bdg.) JULITO C. SABORINO, JR., MD, MPH  
Director IV  
(PDI-March 9 & 16, 2006)

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# Palestine PM not immune from assassination – Israel

**JERUSALEM—ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER** Shaul Mofaz warned Tuesday that Hamas' Palestinian prime minister-designate Ismail Haniya would not be immune from assassination if the radical Islamists carried out attacks.

"From the moment when Hamas continues on the path of terrorism, nobody in the movement will benefit from immunity," Mofaz said when asked on army radio about the possibility of Haniya being subject to a targeted killing operation.

Haniya has been tasked by Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas to form a government following Hamas' massive victory in a Jan. 25 general election.

Hamas has carried out dozens of anti-Israeli suicide attacks during the course of a five-year Palestinian uprising although none in the past 12 months.

Hamas reacted to Mofaz's comments by accusing Israel of conducting "state terrorism." "Hamas does not fear these threats and blackmail. We are committed to the defense of our

rights and our people whatever the price," spokesperson Sami Abu Zuhri told AFP.

"These comments by the Israeli defense minister are an illustration of state terrorism."

Two Hamas leaders, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and Abdelaziz al-Rantissi, were killed in Israeli air strikes two years ago. Haniya was also present with Yassin during an earlier assassination attempt in September 2003.

More recently, Israel has targeted leaders of the extremist Islamic Jihad movement which has continued to carry out attacks, including seven suicide bombings in the past year.

Two members of Jihad died in an air strike on Gaza City on Monday but three children were also killed in the attack, which prompted stinging international criticism from the United Nations.

Mofaz vowed that the so-called targeted killing operations would continue. "This policy is just and it will be pursued," he said, adding that the strikes were carried out with "surgical precision."

Questioned specifically about the deaths of an eight-year-old and two 15-year-old boys in Monday's strike, Mofaz said he was "sorry when civilians are hit." "But if you weigh the advantages and disadvantages (of targeted

killings), you can see that when we acted against Hamas, the situation changed. For this to work with Jihad, we need a little bit of patience," he added.

The commander of Israel's air force, Eliezer Shkedi, said his forces made every effort not to hurt civilians but that in war it was not always possible.

"We are making superhuman efforts not to hurt those who are not involved in terrorism but we do not succeed every time. It's a war," he told army radio.

The UN Middle East peace envoy, Alvaro de Soto, stressed his opposition to what he called "extra-judicial killings, for reasons which include the danger they pose to innocent bystanders."

"While recognizing Israel's right to defend itself, particularly from rocket attacks, I call on the Israeli military authorities to desist from extra-judicial killings and show maximum restraint at this delicate time." Mofaz's comments about Haniya come amid the countdown to an Israeli general election on March 28, with the ruling Kadima party keen to deflect any suggestion they are "soft on terrorism."

Benjamin Netanyahu, leader of the right-wing opposition Likud party, has claimed Hamas's victory was a direct result of the government's decision to pull troops and settlers out of the Islamists' Gaza Strip stronghold last year.

## New high-tech gizmos showcased at world fair

**BERLIN—THE WORLD'S BIGGEST** high-tech fair opens this week, showcasing the latest in robotics, computers and consumer electronics to make the hearts of gadget fans beat faster.

The CeBIT, running March 9-15 in the northern German city of Hanover, will host more than 6,200 exhibitors from 71 countries and some 474,000 visitors eager to take in new advances in digital and information technology.

Among the most hotly awaited trends are new applications for Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology, which is slated to wipe the traditional bar code off the map.

Developers see hundreds of uses for the tiny antennae planted in chips the size of a postage stamp.

Shoppers in the future will be able to pull their carts up to the supermarket counter and with one "beep!" have all the products registered and billed in an instant.

Bookworms will be able to run through a similar scanner and, with a chip in each volume, skip long check-out

lines at the library.

And patients will eventually be able to have RFID chips implanted in their bodies, allowing any attending doctor to call up his or her personal health history at the touch of a button.

Germany's renowned Fraunhofer Institute and the neurology clinic at Berlin's Charite hospital are to unveil a "mental typewriter" that will allow people incapacitated by injury or disease to communicate.

Using 128 electrodes fastened to the cranium, the invention literally reads minds as the patient uses his thoughts to type out messages.

And the event would not be complete without a few rather gimmicky gee-whiz inventions including "intelligent" vacuum cleaners and lawn mowers that take care of household chores and return themselves to the charging station.

"The CeBIT is focusing on RFID this year because in the future, all processing, for example in the field of logistics, will be changed beyond recognition," said Ernst Raue of the event's organizing team. **AFP**

## US lawmaker to block Dubai ports deal

**WASHINGTON—DEFYING** President George W. Bush, Republicans in the House of Representatives on Tuesday moved to block plans by a state-owned Arab company to manage six US ports by attaching an amendment to must-pass spending legislation for the Iraq war and hurricane relief.

House Republican leaders backed a plan by Appropriations Committee Chair Jerry Lewis to push an amendment aimed at stopping the Dubai ports deal the administration had approved, said Ron Bonjean, spokesperson for House Speaker Dennis Hastert, an Illinois Republican.

"We do not believe the US should allow a state-owned company to run American ports," Bonjean said. Lewis told reporters the port security legislation was still being drafted in the House and work remains with the Senate. But he added, "It is my intention to lay the foundation to block the deal." The House Appropriations Committee is expected to debate the ports amendment on Wednesday.

Lewis, a California Republican, said his amendment to the emergency spending bill for the Iraq war and hurricane rebuilding would not mandate that only American citizens be involved in running US ports. He said "the language is designed to deal specifically with the concerns that flow around the United Emirates question." But he also said the measure "could be interpreted to be broader than just a single country."

Bush has threatened to veto legislation that attempts to block the \$6.85 billion deal under which Dubai Ports World took over the global assets of Britain-based P&O which would give the state-owned Arab company control over managing some facilities at six major US ports. **Reuters**

**Republic of the Philippines**  
**ZAMBOANGA CITY SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY**  
San Ramon, Zamboanga City

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**  
**RE-BIDDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ONE (1) LOT 69 KV TRANSMISSION LINE**

The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEA), through the Corporate Operating Budget 2005 intends to apply the sum of **FIFTEEN MILLION SIXTY-DWE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED TWENTY-TWO & 64/100 PESETAS ONLY (P15,622.64)** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payment under the contract for "Re-bidding for the Construction of One (1) Lot 69 KV Transmission Line". Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

1. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEA) now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOI) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility to the "Re-bidding for the Construction of One (1) Lot 69 KV Transmission Line". Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, having completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOI and secure the Eligibility Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) on March 15-20, 2006 at the BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/no" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents on March 28, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the Audio Visual Room, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

2. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations, Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

3. Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building on or before March 28, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.

4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders who pass the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his duly authorized representative on March 19, 2006.

5. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEA) will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on April 7, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City.

6. Interested Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before April 26, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cashier's manager's check, in the amount of One Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand Thirty Three Pesos and 88/100 (P135,033.88). Bid Opening shall be on April 26, 2006, 2:00 P.M. at BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend.

7. Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility Documents from the BAC Secretariat at the NIA-Region XIII (Caraga), Bancas, Butuan City, starting March 18, 2006 to April 7, 2006. They shall submit the accomplished Eligibility Documents on or before 8:00 P.M. on April 18, 2006.

8. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from NIA-Region XIII (Caraga) and inspect the Bidding Documents from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday to Friday starting April 9, 2006.

9. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application and payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos only (P5,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his duly authorized representative from April 9, 2006 to May 7, 2006.

10. The NIA-Region XIII (Caraga) will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on April 26, 2006, 1:00 P.M. at the NIA-Regional Office, Bancas, Butuan City.

11. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bid on or before May 8, 2006, 2:00 P.M. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cashier's manager's check, in the amount of One Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand Thirty Three Pesos and 88/100 (P135,033.88). Bid Opening shall be on May 8, 2006, 2:00 P.M. at NIA-Regional Office, Bancas, Butuan City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend.

12. The National Irrigation Administration reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) RAFAEL A. ALAB, JR.  
BAC Chairman

Approved:  
(Sgd.) DEMOCRATICO P. GRANA, JR., CEBU V  
Regional Manager

(PDI - March 2 & 8, 2006)

**LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
**Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan**  
1586 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quirino Streets, Malate, Manila  
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2006-020	50 units Automated Teller Machines PLUS: Four (4) Year Maintenance Package	P 35,000,000.00 11,550,000.00 P 46,550,000.00	LBP Funds
2006-046	1,000 bds. Jacket for Savings Passbook with Logo, 5-5/8" x 4-1/8" 9,000 bds. Jacket for Savings Signature Card, 5" x 7-1/2" 1,000 pcs. Checkbook Jacket, 8-6/8" x 7" 1,000 bds. Plastic Jacket for ATM Card (Green), 148mm x 103mm	P 214,500.00 1,845,000.00 13,500.00 855,000.00	LBP Funds
2006-053	22 units Multimedia Projector	P 2,928,000.00 P 2,164,800.00	LBP Funds

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bidding for the above requirements is scheduled on April 5, 2006 at 1:00 PM and pertinent Bid Documents may be obtained from the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quirino Streets, Malate, Manila, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00 (ITB No. 2006-020) and P1,000.00 (ITB Nos. 2006-046 and 2006-053).

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on March 21, 2006 (ITB No. 2006-020) and March 23, 2006 (ITB Nos. 2006-046 and 2006-053) at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare the bidding a failure or waive any required formality therein and make an award to the bidder whose bid is the most advantageous to the Bank.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI - March 4 & 10, 2006)

**Republic of the Philippines**  
**CITY GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBOANGA**  
**CITY HALL, Zamboanga City**  
Tel. No. (062) 992-7183

**Solicitation No. Goods 04-6303-04**

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**  
**Drugs and Medicines**

(Name of Project)  
Amonistin 500 mg., Clotrimazole Vaginal Tablets, etc.  
(Brief Description of Goods)

1. The City Government of Zamboanga, through the General Fund 2006 intend to apply the sum of **THREE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED FORTY THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY SIX PESOS (P3,540,760.00)** ONLY being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payment under the contract for Drugs and Medicines (PR No. 100-01-02-0222). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

2. The City Government of Zamboanga now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for Amonistin 500 mg., Clotrimazole vaginal tablets, etc. Delivery of the Goods is required for Ten (10) working days. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations, Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from City Government of Zamboanga-Procurement, Acquisition & Award Division and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm from March 06 to 2006.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of P1,200.00. The method of payment will be Cash payable to the City Treasurer's Office. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder.

6. The City Government of Zamboanga will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on March 08, 2006, 10:00 AM at the City Engineers Conference Room.

7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 AM, March 22, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Check, Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Irrevocable Letter of Credit and in the amount of P35,407.60 or Bank Guarantee in the amount of P63,111.60 or Bonyta Bond in the amount of P82,192.90 or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late bids will not be accepted.

8. Bid opening shall be on March 22, 2006 at 10:00 AM in the City Engineers Conference Room, City Hall, Z.C. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

9. To be delivered in the Office of the City General Services intended for the Office of the City Health.

10. The City Government of Zamboanga reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procurement, Acquisition & Assets Division  
City Hall, N. S. Velez Street, Z.C.  
Tel. Fax: 062-7783 or 881-0862

(Sgd.) MARIO D. ARRIBOLA (DVM)  
BAC Chairman

(PDI - March 8 & 16, 2006)

**Republic of the Philippines**  
**CEBU PORT AUTHORITY**  
CIP Complex, Brgy. Osmeña Boulevard, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City  
E-mail: cpa@cebu.gov.ph  
Telephone: 231-1481 to 62; 231-0880 to 57  
Fax: 231-0884

**AN INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**  
(AMENDED)

The Cebu Port Authority (CPA), North Reclamation Area, Cebu City through its Bids and Award Committee (BAC) invites all interested consultants to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Engagement of Financial Advisor (FA) for the Corporation and Privatization Plan of the Cebu Port Authority.

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is THREE MILLION (P3M). In be paid by the CPA, plus 0.75% of the total sales proceeds from the successful privatization.

PHASE	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES	FEES
I. Evaluation	Preparation of valuation and appraisal report, information compilation and privatization plan	Not to exceed Three Thousand Pesos (P3M)
II. Implementation	Implementation of the privatization plan, as approved by the Privatization Council	Not to exceed 0.75% of the sales proceeds (SUCCESS FEE)

Interested FAs must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) through the BAC Secretariat on or before March 23, 2006 upon receipt of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).

Eligible and Short Listed Consultants shall be submitted in a sealed envelope to the BAC Secretariat not later than 2:00 P.M. of March 21, 2006. Sealed envelopes submitted shall be immediately opened after the deadline. The eligible and short listed consultants shall be evaluated using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as described on the indicated eligibility requirements.

The BAC shall draw up the short list of Financial Advisors (FAs) who have submitted LOIs and have determined as eligible both in accordance with the provision of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, Part A (IRR-A). The short list of prospective bidders shall not exceed five (5) FAs. The criteria and rating system for short listing are as follows:

- a. 30% - General experience of the FA, considering both the overall experience of the firm and the individual experience of the managing partner.
- b. 30% - Qualification experience of the FA.
- c. 20% - Qualification of personnel who may be assigned to the project.
- d. 20% - Duties of the FA with the Philippine government.

The passing rate to be eligible is 70%. Based on such evaluation, the BAC Secretariat will issue the list of short listed consultants on April 1, 2006.

In accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184, bidding for the list of FA will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures. Only bids from short listed FAs will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Bidding Documents to be obtained from the BAC Secretariat. The contract will only be awarded to the highest rated and responsive bidder

## US fears sectarian civil war in Iraq

BAGHDAD—THE UNITED STATES CONCEDED on Tuesday that Iraq could yet descend into sectarian civil war as US diplomats strove to break a deadlock among Iraqi political leaders that threatens further delay in opening a parliament.

"We have opened the Pandora's box," US ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad said, referring to the US-led invasion of Iraq.

"The question is, what is the way forward?" he asked, speaking two weeks after the bombing of a major Shiite Muslim shrine in Samarra sparked days of bloodshed that killed hundreds.

"If another incident (occurs), Iraq is really vulnerable," the envoy, who is at the heart of talks to forge a coalition of Shites, Sunnis and Kurds, told the Los Angeles Times. "The way forward... is an effort to build bridges across communities."

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, an architect of the 2003 invasion, said: "There's always been a potential for a civil war." He blamed the media for "exaggerating" Iraq's problems.

"It was held together through force and vi-

ciousness," he said of the minority Sunni-dominated rule of Saddam Hussein.

President George W. Bush says an inclusive Iraqi government can bring stability and, along with the formation of Iraq's new armed forces, can allow him to start withdrawing US troops.

The recent violence has jeopardized that plan.

A few days before US military commanders are expected to put recommendations to Bush for future troop levels, Khalilzad warned that pulling out too soon would risk a regional conflict that would make his native Afghanistan "look like child's play."

The assassination of the top Iraqi general in Baghdad on Monday by a sniper who apparently knew exactly which car door he would open in a 14-vehicle convoy prompted an investigation.

Iraqi generals said it proved the US-trained army was infiltrated by militants who could turn on fellow soldiers in the event of a conflict with sectarian and ethnic militias.

Efforts to forge a grand coalition following an

election in December that Washington hailed as a triumph of democracy have stumbled over Sunni and Kurdish refusal to accept that Shiite Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari should stay on.

His critics say he's failed to bring security or prosperity during the year in which he has served as interim premier.

Jaafari, as ever, appeared untroubled on Tuesday. The soft-spoken Islamist doctor told an hour-long media briefing that touched only briefly on Iraq's political crisis that the issue was being discussed in a "civilized and democratic way."

Angered by the opposition but divided over its response, the various parties in the Alliance asked President Jalal Talabani for a few days delay in Sunday's planned opening of parliament.

But senior officials, including the outgoing speaker, said that was unlikely because March 12 is a constitutional deadline.

Sunday's session, however, may conduct essentially no business—not even the election of a new speaker demanded by the law. Reuters



## SAND PROTEST

A Tibetan monk from India works on a mandala of colored sands in the Prague Museum, March 7. The monks will throw this mandala into the Vltava River today to support the Free Tibet movement. AP

## UN employees protest Annan's overhaul plan

UNITED NATIONS—UN SECRETARY GENERAL Kofi Annan outlined on Tuesday a radical overhaul of UN procedures, recruitment and training, prompting protests by staff on proposed outsourcing from New York headquarters.

In a long-awaited report on management reform, Annan sought more financial oversight, simplified hiring and reporting procedures, staff buyouts and a modern information system. The cost is estimated at \$500 million.

Annan said the shake-up was necessary because the United Nations had to cope with 80,000 peacekeepers and civilian staff in the field and its "regulations and rules do not respond to current needs." His report is a direct result of scandals in the oil-for-food program in Iraq and fraud in awarding contracts.

"Just as this building, after 56 years of ad hoc repair and maintenance, now needs to be fully refurbished from top to bottom so our organization, after decades of piecemeal reform, now needs a thorough strategic refit," Annan told the 191-member General Assembly in introducing the 33-page report.

The exercise, demanded by world leaders at a UN summit in September, would cost about \$510 million: \$280 million for improving staff conditions in the field; \$120 million for information technology; \$10 million for training and a possible \$100 million for buyouts.

In turn, UN officials believe they could save nearly as much through streamlining contract procurement and farming out projects, but gave few details.

While UN diplomats were cautious in their first response, UN staff met in a raucous session with Annan asking for accountability for previous failed reforms.

Rosemary Waters, the American head of UN staff committee, said 700 employees would campaign "to halt the constant effort of the management to erode the rights and benefits of staff" and management's attempts to eradicate jobs. Reuters

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## Dialogue

**M**ALACAÑANG SAYS PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo is open to holding a dialogue with members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, including "disgruntled soldiers." The dialogue should "finally clear up the issues that have been muddled by destabilizers and coup plotters and infuse greater unity and professionalism in our soldiery," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said. "It is important to know the underlying causes and reasons that drive our soldiers to meddle in politics."

### EDITORIAL

With restiveness continuing to smolder in the Armed Forces and some members of elite fighting units like the Scout Rangers and the Marines allegedly even plotting to withdraw their support from her, few things could be more urgent and welcome than a dialogue between the commander in chief and the men at arms. A wide-ranging and candid exchange should give the national leadership a good idea of what is making our soldiers uneasy about their own situation and that of the whole nation, and put it in a better position to address their concerns.

The problem is that probing deep into the sources of the soldiers' discontent may not be what the administration has in mind. On one hand, Bunye talks as if anything and everything would be on the table. "The dialogue agenda is open for all relevant and vital issues affecting the Armed Forces," he has said. But on the other hand, he won't say if the President would agree to discuss the allegations of cheating in the 2004 presidential election and the partisan activities of some generals during the polls. He said the administration was not rejecting "any specific issues at this point," but added, "We don't want the forum to be used for grandstanding or espousing their causes." Earlier he had promised: "All voices within the chain of command will be heard, but the discussion must not be used for propaganda."

The key words here are obviously "grandstanding" and "propaganda." And in the administration's political dictionary, those words mean anything related to the charges that Ms Arroyo had rigged or tried to rig the election, as well as to allegations of graft and corruption in high places. Those are the words the President and her allies use when they dismiss and denounce demands by the opposition and other critics for an explanation of what her taped conversations with then Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano were about. That is how they call every attempt of the Senate to get to the bottom of scandals linking key administration officials, including the President, and members of her family—like the alleged payoffs from Jueteng and the P728-million fertilizer scam.

Skirting these issues during her dialogue with the soldiers will not bring the President closer to salving the hurt of the soldiers and healing the division in the Armed Forces. On the few occasions disgruntled military officers have spoken in public, they have demanded an end to corruption and the politicization of the Armed Forces. They have also asked for "clean elections" and pleaded that they be left alone to carry out their duties as professional soldiers.

Unless the President decides to meet these issues head-on, the dialogue will be a pointless exercise. She might as well do a monologue and unveil some new package of benefits for the soldiers, and pray it will work better than Band-aid to bind their wounds.

But frank and honest explanations for what transpired in the elections may be the last thing soldiers can expect from their commander in chief. There is no reason to believe she would tell the soldiers what she has consistently refused to explain in full to the Filipino people.

## Closing Guantanamo

**M**ORE THAN FOUR YEARS AFTER THE AMERICAN DETENTION camp at Guantanamo Bay opened, the range of voices calling for it to close is widening. Overseas, it runs from the Democrat former US President Jimmy Carter through UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and the International Committee of the Red Cross, to the conservative Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

Tony Blair's reticence is understandable, particularly given the importance he places on the transatlantic alliance. But the case for voicing a stronger opposition is becoming overwhelming.

It is difficult to see how the harm done to America's image, and the outrage inspired throughout the Muslim world, could have been outweighed by any harvest of intelligence. Guantanamo should close and our Prime Minister should stand behind such a call.

*The Observer (London)*

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: <http://www.inq7.net>

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at  
 • Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sta. Malacañang City  
 • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1283 Makati City  
 • Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments  
 • Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 • Advertising 897-4807  
 • Circulation 527-3342 527-3346 528-0-821 /  
 528-0186 and 528-0234 / Fax 898-0214.



## Faceless news sources

### VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado



Scandal." Transparency in the news process and accountability to readers and listeners are crucial. Thus, codes of ethics try to ensure these attributes.

But there are codes and codes. "There are 35 million laws trying to enforce the Ten Commandments," it has been said.

The Inquirer, Associated Press and other media groups have guidelines for their staffers. The Philippine Press Institute's 11-point code ranges from right of reply to protection of sources. And the Sun Star's syndicated papers have a "Code of Standards" that covers journalistic concerns—from accuracy to conflict of interest.

But "a free press is not necessarily an angelic press." Take radio "block-timers." These are walk-in customers who buy airtime, the Center for Media Freedom noted in a study. They are not staff members. Many block-timers never heard of professional guidelines. Will the new adrenaline-pumped into the KBP and the NTC since Proclamation 1017, help resolve this old issue?

In print, politicians stick knives into each other's back under the cloak of "reliable sources." Reporters' opinions are sometimes slipped in as "quotes" from "officials requesting anonymity." Few papers have oversight structures that enable sustained challenge to glut use of nameless sources.

Codes of ethics are not self-implementing. Frail men and women try to work by them, under deadline pressure and under what Times editor Harold Evans called "the invisible environment—the complexity of forces and agencies that we cannot monitor for ourselves but affect our lives."

In this pressure-cooker craft, "anonymous sources" have proved the more nettlesome issue.

"Journalistic integrity involving confidential sources has given The New York Times plenty of headaches," writes the paper's public editor Byron Calame. "So it's not surprising that the paper's anonymous sourcing guidelines have been getting major attention."

Under tighter oversight rules, the Times insists, at least one editor must know the confidential source's name before the story gets published. That's not all. Readers should also be told why the paper believes a source is entitled to anonymity. This is a radical switch from a previous practice where the paper would on ly state why the source asked for it.

"These two changes are profoundly altering the role of confidential sources," Calame writes. These are internal checks and balances. And they bear repeating because, all too often reporters assume they can prop up stories on faceless sources with nary a challenge from editors or readers and listeners.

The use of anonymous source is a method of last resort. That's basic. It should be used only when the story is of compelling public interest. A supervising editor must know the source's identity. He must confirm there was no way to get the story out. And the source must have first-hand knowledge.

Reporters and editors must disclose to readers or listeners the source's potential biases. The late BusinessWorld founder Raul Locsin, for example, would insist on a box that indicated the writer's affiliations. To protect a source, journalists may not resort to untruths in the story. Anonymous sources should, instead, be encouraged to go on the record.

Readers and listeners have a stake in media. They too should constantly challenge the use of anonymous sources, so that this becomes the rare exception, not the rule.

"All too often, [the press is] morally smug or factually reckless, or on our worst days, both columnist Meg Greenfield once wrote. Tighter oversight on nameless sources could reduce our bad days."

E-mail: juan\_mercado@pacific.net.ph

## Betrayals

### THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



IGNACIO BUNYE SAYS THAT "PAGLABAN SA Kataksilan: 1017," a documentary purporting to prove a "Left-Right" conspiracy to topple government and justifying 1017, is now available in CD form and could be had upon request. The computer-savvy may even download it from the Malacañang website.

Well, I can at least assure him the CD will not find its way into the pirates' lairs in Quiapo and elsewhere. Even pirates have taste and draw the line at junk. As to downloading it from the government website, I think the computer-savvy would find better uses for their DSL time, which is not inexpensive. Downloading porn is a much more intelligent use of Bit Torrent.

The first time I heard the premise about the "Left-Right" conspiracy, which was one of the "whereas-er" of 1017, I thought I heard 1017 all over again. That is exactly the same premise of the Marcosian decree that put the country under martial law. Marcos then attributed the anarchy and rebelliousness in his time to a "Left-Right conspiracy" identifying the CPP-NPA as constituting the first, and the "oligarchs," led by the Lopezes, as constituting the second. How they managed to bridge the class chasm to form a bond, only Marcos could say.

His notion, of course, elaborately spelled out in a book called "Today's Revolution: Democracy" (note the resemblance to the title: "Paglaban sa Kataksilan: 1017"), was that he was the "Center." In the same book, as a variation on the theme, he also paraded himself as the center not just of Left and Right but of top and bottom. At the bottom, he said, were the communists who wanted to mount a bloody "Jacobin" revolution. At the top were the oligarchs who wanted to preserve the status quo and were resisting his efforts to reform society. That notion, of course, now looks sillier than the Three Stooges. Marcos was about as centrist as George W. Bush, Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld are today.

Indeed, all the Arroyo administration's current effort at recycling that propaganda line reminded me of a famous slogan during martial

law that said, "Sa ikatulad ng bayan, duripina ang kailangan." Ariel Ureta, the most famous TV personality at the time, parodied it into "Sa ikatulad ng bayan, buskleta ang kailangan." The martial law regime, which had no sense of humor, a surefire mark of fascist minds, reprimanded him harshly.

Truly, there's something to be said for the saying, "History repeats itself, the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce." What makes this second one farcical?

Well, first off, when Marcos spoke of a conspiracy against him, he was at least the universally recognized president of the country. He had won his reelection bid, the first time a post-war Filipino president had done so. Though the 1969 election was generally regarded as the worst ever, adding new dimensions to guns, goons and gold, there was no doubt he won over Sergen Osmeña. By contrast, GMA is speaking of a conspiracy against her when few recall her as the real president of this country. That is borne out by the surveys that say the overwhelming majority of Filipinos do not believe she won the election and the majority of them want her out. Marcos could at least claim he was declaring 1017 to defend a legitimate government against a coup. GMA can only claim she declared 1017 to defend a coup against a legitimate effort to end it.

Second, GMA is the product of a "Left-Right conspiracy." That was how she came to power in the first place, or at least through a "Left-Center-Right conspiracy" also called People Power. If I recall right, Jay Sonza produced a documentary as well about that, shortly after EDSA II. I no longer recall its title, but I do recall that one of

its points was that, ironically, at the time the Left-Center-Right conspiracy toppled Erap, the economy was never better. Put those two documentaries side by side and it's easy to see which one the pirates of Quiapo would rather carry in their stalls. The Sonza documentary is far more believable when it talks of a Left, Right and Center conspiracy to topple not just a legitimate government but one that had an overwhelming mandate from the people.

As a footnote to this and a cautionary tale for those who think they can push their interests through GMA, she did acknowledge and reward the Left for its help in putting her in power. The honeymoon lasted briefly, the Left swiftly discovering it had just helped install Marcos. As kataksilan or betrayal goes, GMA shouldn't be accusing the Left of it; the Left should be accusing GMA of it: "Paglaban sa Kataksilan: 1017." People Power.

Third, it's true: There is a Left and a Right conspiracy against GMA. In fact, there's a Center one, too. But until GMA declared 1017 that conspiracy could never get off the ground because the Left, Center and Right couldn't get their act together—as GMA's people themselves kept gleefully pointing out, though now they're singing a different tune. Almost overnight, 1017 brought them together. 1017 is the answer to a conspiracy? A conspiracy—of the Left-Right and Center, also known as People Power—is the answer to 1017? Paglaban sa Kataksilan: 1017? Paglaban sa Kataksilan: 1017? People Power.

That is the reason GMA lifted 1017 almost as soon as she declared it. That is the reason, too, she cannot afford to arrest the conspirators: there are not enough jails in this country to hold the majority of the population.

As to GMA being the center of Left and Right, top and bottom, well, she is about as centrist as Marcos himself.

You strangle democracy after having been elected president twice, that is tragedy. You strangle democracy after never having been elected president at all, that is farce. Paglaban sa Kataksilan: 1017?

Paglaban sa Kataksilan: 1017? Krus ng Bayan.

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2006

## OPINION

A13

## Gov't making martyrs out of leftist reps

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD RESOLVE THE case of the five party-list representatives if it doesn't want to make martyrs out of them. The Left has always been good at making martyrs. The five were charged with rebellion, which, the Supreme Court says, is a "continuing crime." Under this principle, the five are already technically under arrest, but they evaded police detention by submitting themselves to the protective custody of the House of Representatives. House members quickly closed ranks to protect the rights of the accused legislators, who were fetched from UP Diliman by Majority Leader Prospero Nogales, Deputy Speaker Arthur Defensor and Minority Leader Francis Escudero. The five are now boarders at Speaker Jose de Venecia's office.

The preliminary investigation begins today. Under the rules of court, this can take as long as 20 days. If the court finds probable cause, it will issue warrants of arrest. But the police were quite peeved by Rep. Lisa Maza's decision to leave the Batasan premises in violation of the agreement she and her four co-accused made with the police and the House leadership. Throw in the leftist lawmakers' threat to go back to the mountains if they are arrested, and it's easy to see why the police are now pressing to take them into custody, as they have done with Rep. Crispin Beltran.

De Venecia was quoted as saying he's "already tired" of taking care of his "boarders," but he is sticking to his position: Show the arrest warrants and the police can have them. I can see the police gaining custody but trust the Left to milk it for propaganda with the help of the media and KSP (kulang sa panin) politicians.

By the way, the statement of Fr. Romeo Intengan on the leftist representatives' threat to go back to the mountains was quite strong. Intengan said that while the leftist politicians have been elected, they have no qualms about supporting the New People's Army with congressional funds. Intengan also said they are enjoying "the best of both worlds," as he cited an Ateneo study purporting to have traced a clear link between the above-ground Left group and the New People's

## POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

Army based on the use of the lawmakers' Countryside Development Fund.

Even before the relationship between the two chambers of Congress deteriorated into open animosity, I had always felt that having two chambers was an expensive and useless set-up. The Senate is our most expensive debating society: with only four bills passed last year and nearly P2 billion spent to maintain it, each law cost about P400 million. But the gridlock is not happening only now under GMA's

Florencio Abad, former Batanes representative and education secretary and now a member of the Hyatt 10, who supported the parliamentary system until his breakaway from GMA, has pointed out in a 19-page treatise, titled "Should the Philippines Turn Parliamentary?" that the gridlock was as bad during Cory Aquino's time. He noted that in 1987, the majority of those who won seats in Congress ran under Aquino's Laban party. However, many of them could not have won without her personal endorsement. Yet, she had a hard time winning congressional support for her key legislative reform proposals.

This country does not need two chambers that are always fighting each other. It needs only one chamber that reflects demographic realities. Only then will we see faster delivery of public services and real progress.

The dust had barely settled in Makati following the discovery of a coup plot when GMA went to Market! Market! in Global City, Fort Bonifacio, to visit the "Go Negosyo" entrepreneurs' fair organized by RFM president and presidential adviser

on entrepreneurship Jose A. Concepcion III. Armando Bartolome Jr., president of GMB Franchise Developers, shared with this columnist his insight into that activity. He said that both private and government agencies, including the educational sector, conducted seminars for ordinary citizens and it was "most heartwarming and inspiring" to see successful entrepreneurs, such as Concepcion, mentoring those who wanted to go into business, no matter how small. Bartolome, who took time out to share his wisdom and experience, described "Go Negosyo" as a "different revolution" from the one being advocated by the street protest. To him it showed "the seriousness of entrepreneurs in making positive results for our country, so unlike the behavior of the street trouble-raisers."

Defeated vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda, in a letter to this newspaper, has accused me of "ignoring a fundamental rule of journalism—that both sides of a controversy should be quoted or cited to ensure fairness in reportage and commentary." I had earlier written that Vice President Noli de Castro's lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, who's also GMA's lawyer, claimed that the Presidential Electoral Tribunal already finished opening at least 30 percent of questioned ballots in Cebu province and city. Cebu gave a 1.02 million margin of victory to GMA and about 900,000 to De Castro, which comprise about 90 percent of their overall margin of victory. Macalintal claimed that no substantial fraud had been discovered in the race for the two top posts and that if this trend held, allegations of electoral fraud should be put to rest.

I met Legarda in various social gatherings since that item came out, the most recent being the Indian National Day a few weeks ago. Each time she would protest Macalintal's claim and I would repeatedly say I'd be happy to print her side. All she needed to do was to instruct her lawyer, Sixto Brillantes, to write me, but she never did. I must now vehemently protest her unfair charge. Ang hirap kay Loren, akala niyu having a pretty face suffices.

## The media fight back

## HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

utive secretary; Raul Gonzalez, secretary of justice; Arturo Lomibao, director general of the Philippine National Police; and Ronald Olivar Solis, chair of the National Telecommunications Commission.

The venue is the Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court has no jurisdiction to hear petitions for declaratory relief.

FLAG has concerns over the current composition of the Supreme Court, most of whose members were appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo. FLAG also has concerns over the outcome of the petitions challenging 1017.

As the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility (CMFR) explained, the petition asserts media's rights against any censorship or prior restraint—rights that are protected under the Constitution. Whether 1017 has been lifted or not, the petition proceeds. It holds executive officials Ermila, Lomibao, Solis and Gonzalez responsible for pronouncements and issuances that seek to impose restrictions on the media.

The petition asserts that "only a court, with its accompanying due process safeguards, may impose content-based prior restraints." The petitioners therefore ask the court to prohibit the officials mentioned from "imposing any form of content-based prior restraint on the press, be it formal or informal, direct or in the form of disguised or thinly veiled threats of administrative sanction or criminal prosecution."

Only the courts, after due process, and not any executive agency, have the right to impose restrictions on media content.

CMFR and other media groups like the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, the Philippine Press Institute, and the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines signed as corporate entities. Other media groups and individual journalists have joined in the battle.

All are one in saying, "Never again."

Send feedback to [cerespd@ufo.com.ph](mailto:cerespd@ufo.com.ph)

## Listen and read

## THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

IN THE LAST YEARS OF HER LIFE, SHE WOULD send me books about herself. Such was her nature, however, that there seemed nothing self-serving, nothing egotistical at all about her doing so. Each volume was carefully inscribed with words of encouragement, gentle reminders and suggestions involving the lessons to be gleaned from her life's work. And how glittering her achievements were in the many lives she lived: in the academe, the girl scouts, in government, the United Nations, in the Museo Pambata...

She was the kind of person who insisted that it wasn't old-fashioned to expect—even demand—that those who enjoyed either prominence or some kind of gift (artistic, intellectual, spiritual, moral or financial) must do something for the country, though not necessarily in the to-be-expected ways. She was one of those rare kinds of leaders, one who delighted in collaboration, and was proudest when teamwork won the day. She was no well-meaning fairy floating above the sordid realities of life. She was a capable executive. She was a visionary, too, seeing that the future lay in building the country from the ground up. Progress, for her, was "trickle up," not "trickle down."

She outlined what she set out to do, in government: "I at once insisted on democratization, meaning processes that respect the person and thus ensure a people-centered department... I involved all my senior staff in the decision process... Before my time, the procedure was to issue orders from the top to the lower levels. We changed that procedure. Henceforth, our policy was to let welfare programs and priorities be decided by the people themselves, at the grass roots level of governance, which is the barangay. Each barangay group would consult its constituents, decide what their local problems and priorities were, and then formulate a 'barangay' plan of action to submit to the welfare department. Like any revolutionary idea, this concept was met with opposition and cynicism. To make sure it was implemented, my staff and I fanned out all over the

country, to listen to the people, list their needs and requests, and to train local social workers in the conduct of assemblies to determine a barangay consensus. The local social workers we trained would in turn interpret the empowerment process to their people: the poor telling the workers about their priorities..."

Explaining what she was proudest of having accomplished as secretary of Social Welfare and Development, she said, "We really decentralized operations, we completely regionalized and thus localized operations. Before, even a clerk anywhere had to be appointed from Manila, and usually he had to wait until he could come up with a *padulas*, a *regalo* to the appointing powers... It is unfortunate that most officials do not want their authority shared to empower the poor. They want to hold on to power."

The late Nick Joaquin, in his biography of her, "One Woman's Liberating: The Life and Career of Estefania Aldaba-Lim," penned this word-portrait of her as she talked to her biographer: "She forces herself to reminisce, often shutting her eyes tight to bring back the child she was, or the schoolgirl, or the young wartime bride. Her speech is precise, the voice is fluent, the tone is melodic—though sometimes the words become crisp, curt, even caustic, in remembered anger. Then the fine eyes will dart and flash, and you get a glimpse of Fanny imperious. Hers is a luminous complexion that inflames to emotion."

Joaquin's title seems to have been inspired by something she told him. Describing to the writer what she felt she'd learned, as a woman, she said,

"A woman fights back effectively, not by becoming more masculine, but by becoming more feminine. Only she can liberate herself, nobody else. And she does that by participating in all kinds of activity, even those outside her specialty. Myself, for instance: I don't like politics, but I went into it because it is vital to be involved in movements that have impact on the country's development and progress. I went into social welfare because I wanted to teach the poor self-reliance: this was one way of helping women, the uneducated and unskilled, to liberate themselves."

She concluded with some rigorous self-analysis: "But in the process of helping others, I am liberating myself. I am not confined to my own particular field—say, Psychology—but can range freely in any direction because I have made myself participate in the entire gamut of human endeavor and can say, I have proved competent in various areas. Only thus can a woman overcome the so-called man's world. Participation is the key procedure, not confrontation."

So then, why did she send me those books? Did she do beyond a desire to make a gracious gesture to a young writer she wanted to encourage, and as a token of friendship between families? To me, looking back on her life, her gestures came from her recognizing the duty of elders to pass on to the young more than just fond memories. Saint Augustine famously described in his "Confessions" the kind of mystical spark she, perhaps, had hoped to achieve. A wayward youth, Augustine heard a voice; and it told him, "Tolle, lege." Listen, read. That was God, of course, talking to a future saint; but it could be every father, mother, concerned aunt or uncle, telling the next, impatient, impetuous, perhaps, earnest, but also often confused, generation, "Listen, read." The road ahead is less difficult, if we realize that the path is lined with paving stones hewn by those who have come before us."

Estefania Aldaba-Lim: Tita Fanny to so many grateful people, like myself—farewell, and thank you.

## Malcolm

FOR THE FIRST 14 YEARS OF MY LIFE, I WAS CONTENTED with having two younger brothers. But Mom and Dad saw the imbalance of having two children being pitted against one whenever we fought among ourselves, since almost always, one brother would side with another, although as in our national politics, party-switching was common. So Mom and Dad decided to make things equal by creating a new player.

Initially, we objected vigorously. We argued that good things came in threes—from the classic Three Musketeers, to the musical Three Tenors, and the original Power Rangers who were originally composed of Jason, Zack and Billy.

However, Mom and Dad pointed out that the Ninja Turtles and Popeye's nephews were four in number. And when Tommy the Green Ranger came into the picture, we knew our cause was lost.

They asked us if we wanted a sister or another brother. After careful deliberations, we decided that another boy was more fun to wrestle with in bed than a girl.

True enough, in February 2000, a baby boy was added to our family. He was the length of my forearm, I estimated, the moment I saw him in a plastic crib in the hospital nursery. What worried me most then was if the nurse gave the wrong baby to us. But I settled the issue by deciding to wait for him to grow up and see if he looked like one of us.

Finally, Malcolm was brought home. I longed to hold him, but I was filled with anxiety. How fragile was he? Was he as delicate as my friend's week-old puppy that mysteriously died after I tossed it in the air and caught it as it came falling at normal acceleration due to gravity? I decided I would not try that on him.

After a few weeks, I could not wait for him to grow up. When would he lift his head? Roll over? Crawl? Walk? Jump? Swim? Yet, I did not notice him grow every day for the first four years of his life.

That same year shortly after Christmas, I left for Singapore for my high school education. I was more concerned about how fast I could make new friends there than how much I would miss my family. Even when homesickness was at its peak during my first few months in the city state, I never missed Malcolm. It was only when I entered our home again during my first holiday that the thought occurred to me: Did he still remember me? I had been away for three months.

When I first approached my youngest brother, now 15 months old and perched comfortably in the arms of his yaya, he glanced askance at me with shifing but not penetrating eyes. He tilted his head in dubious recognition, but his eyes never left mine. When he leaned forward to embrace me, "oohs" from my grandmother and nannies filled the place.

After a week, I flew back to Singapore.

Now after four years and after taking 20 flights between Manila and Singapore, I can see that Malcolm can reach the light switches. He has grown twice as tall and gained weight eight times, weighing a hefty 65 pounds and counting. His belly is as round as his face.

Once when my 18-year-old brother Alex and I were paying for our groceries, we spotted two pretty teenage girls glancing in our direction. When they started walking toward us, we puffed our chests and assumed our best poses. But before we knew it, they were down on their knees with their cell-phone cameras, asking Malcolm to pose for shots. My brother and I could only look on with envy.

Whenever I am with female friends and he also happens to be around, Malcolm manages to grab their attention. Girls seem to fall easily for his childish charm and witty remarks. Even this early, they are predicting that he will someday become a heartbreaker.

One day during Christmas vacation, my brother brought Malcolm along to watch a movie with some of his friends. In the middle of a movie, Malcolm whispered to the girl beside him, "It's freezing cold in here. Can you hold my hand?"

Imagine! He is 5 and already he has become a smooth talker.

I just hope Malcolm will grow up faster so that he will understand that not all our female friends are our girlfriends. Then perhaps he will laugh when I tell him how much he liked teenage girls when he was 5 or when he learns how much trouble he caused us when he mixed up the names of our girlfriends. Then, too, he will learn to ask for gifts only twice a year, and get to enjoy it when his nephews do the things he is now doing to us, his brothers.

Stephen Co, 19, is a first year BS Biology student at the Ateneo de Manila University

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## THEY SAID

## Political default

"It would be pitiful if we do not pursue this case just because they think it's all part of politics or just because those who died or suffered injuries were poor in life and should just be forgotten."

—Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita on government efforts to hold liable those perceived to be responsible for the PhilSports Araneta stampede that killed 74 people and injured hundreds

## Groaning budget

"This budget groans under the weight of loan repayments, our collective penance for engaging in the national sport that is tax evasion."

—Rep. Rolando Andaya, outgoing chair of the House of Representatives' committee on appropriations, on the long-delayed proposed national budget

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## The gall of the 'best' leader

CONRADO DE QUIROS MADE ME laugh when he said: "I love Cory." (PDI, 2/28/06) Indeed, President Corazon Aquino had her share of woes during her term, but to compare her with Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is an insult. The Arroyo administration excels in corruption, lying, cheating and in all other shortcomings relative to governance.

I wonder if GMA and her cohorts remember the golden rule of God. Does she really love our country? I know that love is sacrifice, it does not boast,

it does not envy; love rejoices with the truth, it does not think evil. (1 Cor. 13)

What really saddened (and angered me) was her telling the whole world that she's the "best" person to lead us. The gall of this woman! She's living in a world of make-believe. Are her feet still on the ground? It's evident that her administration is founded on a lie. My parents taught us to always tell the truth God commanded us to do so.

May these verses from the Bible pierce her heart and those of her offi-

cials: "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves." (Philippians 2:3) "Do not be deceived. God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." (Galatians 6:7) "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account." (Hebrews 4:13)

—LORNA CHEN,  
98682026@ms2.hinet.net

## Still counting on SSS' commitment to its mission

AS EARLY AS JULY 2005, THE BRANCH manager of the Social Security System-Iloilo sent the head of the accounting department of the SSS main office in Quezon City a request for a status update on my cancelled check amounting to P86,100. This check covered the compensation due me in connection with death of my father, Magno B. Sungkhat.

However, in spite of the urgency of SSS-Iloilo's request, which was followed up on Sept. 12, 2005, SSS main

did not respond. It was only prodded to action when the Maramay Muna arm of the Civil Service Commission interceded on my behalf upon my request. SSS main simply referred my problem to SSS-Bacolod on Jan. 20, 2006.

As I write these lines, I am still unsure whether a replacement check will finally be made to me by SSS-Bacolod. What I am sure of is SSS-Bacolod is the hub of the cluster of SSS branches in

Western Visayas. SSS-Bacolod may just once more refer my problem back to SSS-Iloilo.

It is now March 2006. A period of almost eight months has elapsed since I requested an update on my check in July 2005. I trust that the SSS will be true to its avowed mission and will finally give the benefit due me.

—MARILYN SUNGKAT-LANCISO,  
Quezon Street, Poblacion Libacao,  
5502 Aklan

## Working to promote interest of youth

WE APPRECIATE THE OBSERVATION OF CARL Marc Ramota about the deletion of the provision pertaining to the youth (Section 13, Article II of the 1987 Constitution) in the proposed Constitution submitted to Congress by the Constitutional Commission. (PDI, 2/20/06)

During the Council of State meeting (last January), which then Chair Barn Aquino and I attended, we were given the opportunity to point out the deletion. In that meeting, we also had the opportunity to share with Chair Jose Abueva of the ConCom our point of view regarding the deletion.

I have been appointed as member of the Charter Change Advocacy Council created by Executive Order 495. This council, which is composed mostly of former ConCom members, passed a resolution recommending to

Congress the reinstatement of the deleted provision. The council is now conducting in key areas of the country a series of consultations with the youth. The consultations focus on the Charter change and other youth-related issues with the aim of coming up with a stronger national youth policy.

We recognize the vigilance of the youth in this particular issue. Rest assured that the National Youth Commission is doing its best to protect the interest of the sector. We hope that with our collective effort, we will be able to work this situation to the advantage of the Filipino youth.

—RICHARD ALVIN M. NALUPTA,  
chair and chief executive officer,  
National Youth Commission,  
Malacañang, Manila

## Foolproof against fake CTPL policies

WE THANK HONESTO GENERAL FOR REVEALING in his Feb. 13 column just how complicated, inconvenient and cumbersome it would be to the motor vehicle registrant if a "clearing house" were to supervise the issuance of CTPL (compulsory third party liability) policies.

From the way he explained it, the "clearing house" would complicate the process for the motor vehicle registrant who would have to course CTPL payment through the banks. How this would avert the issuance of fake CTPL and prevent the insurance companies from cheating on their taxes on premiums is inconceivable in a transaction completely controlled by the insurance agent and the bank.

General admitted that the "players" (insurance firms that had previously issued CTPLs) would be the same. But he claimed that it would be a totally different "ball game." It was like saying that the players who had cheated would continue to play. And that supposedly would stop cheating. Only the hopelessly naive will believe that. Besides, the concept had been tried before through a "consortium," and it proved to be an unqualified failure.

General explained that under the Insurance Commission proposal, the vehicle owner would still be required to look for an agent to purchase his cover. The agent accepts payment and informs the bank through a computer, giving the name of the registrant and the license plate of the vehicle, after which the policy is printed out in the computer. The bank is supposed to credit the taxes to the government, even before it receives payment. If the agent

has no computer, he can use an Internet café. Will this also eliminate fixers?

In the proposal, there is no guarantee that the policy will not be fake, or that the government would get its share of taxes. Even if the bank gets the payment, it can withhold or delay the remittance of the taxes, as some banks have been wont to do in regard to other taxes paid through them.

The GSIS proposal is the simplest and the best. It is convenient to the taxpayer because he does not have to go to an insurance office to purchase his CTPL policy. All he has to do is go straight to the Land Transportation Office registrar and pay the CTPL premium, along with his registration fees. His registration receipt will be his Certificate of Cover by the GSIS. Taxes on premium will be credited directly and instantly to the national treasury.

This will not create a monopoly; private companies can still participate through the reinsurance system.

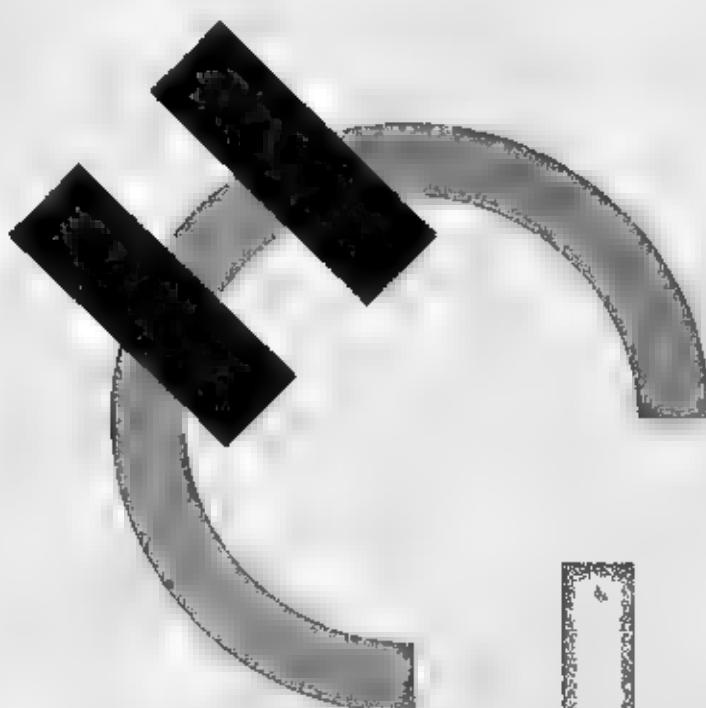
General claims that the GSIS does not have the assets to cover the entire CTPL field. What private company can match the GSIS' assets of P308.5 billion? Besides, what is most important is that the motor vehicle owner and the potential accident victim are fully covered by insurance as the GSIS proposal is foolproof against fake policies. The government is also assured of taxes.

—JOSEFINA L. VALERA,  
senior vice president,  
General Insurance Group,  
Government Service Insurance System,  
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

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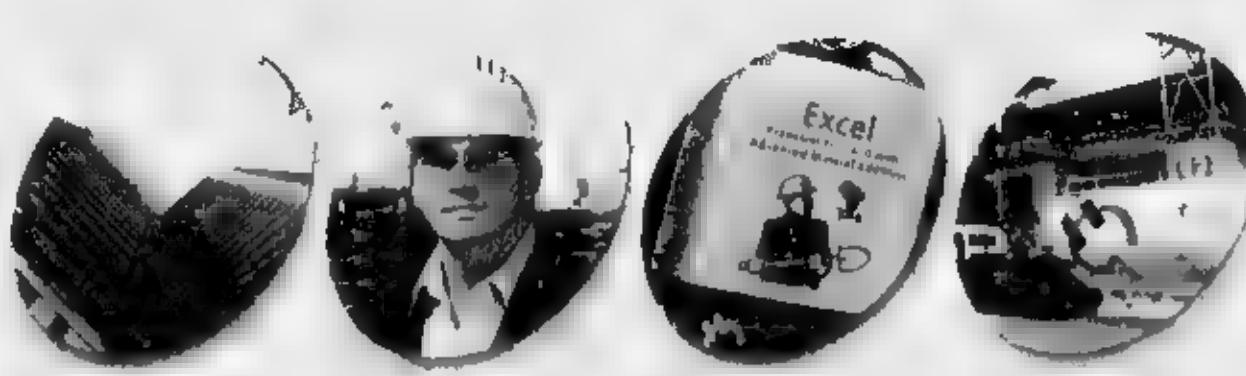
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# Across the NATION

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# MILF survives rebellion by anti-peace guerrillas

**COTABATO CITY**—Leaders of a Moro separatist group negotiating peace with the government foiled a plot to unseat them by a faction that was opposed to the peace negotiations.

Guerrillas loyal to Moro Islamic Liberation Front chair Murad Ibrahim laid siege to a village in Rajah Buayan, Maguindanao to prevent other guerrillas from massing up and protesting against the holding of the talks and the leadership of Murad.

Two senior MILF leaders, Musaip Abdullah alias Comandante Adan and Birol Mateng alias Commander Guevara, confirmed to the INQUIRER that their forces



MURAD

had ringed Barangay Pidsan-dawan on Saturday to thwart a planned power grab by other MILF units against its chair, Murad Ibrahim.

They said their action had the blessings of the MILF Central Committee and its peace panel.

The renegades were led by Ameril Umbrak Kato and Wahid Tondok, who support Samar Hashim, younger brother of the late MILF chair Salamat Hashim. The two want Samar to become MILF chair.

Abdullah and Mateng were Murad's comrades in the Moro National Liberation Front before martial law.

Col. Frank del Prado of the 6th Army Infantry Division said the two MILF factions earlier clashed in Mamasapano and Datu Saudi Ampatuan towns in Maguindanao.

Del Prado said the military would not interfere because of a ceasefire agreement with the MILF.

The Malaysian government, which is hosting the peace talks, had informed the MILF and government panels that the meeting

scheduled this month had to be postponed indefinitely following President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a national state of emergency last week.

But a source said Malaysian authorities were alarmed by a report of the International Monitoring Team about "imminent disunity" in the MILF.

Chief government negotiator Silvestre Afable said earlier that the two panels were to sign an initial agreement on ancestral domain, the thorniest issue in the talks.

The ancestral domain agreement, Afable said, would signal the end of exploratory talks and the start of formal negotiations.

Afable said the formal negotiations were expected to last until September, when a peace agreement would have been signed. *Nash B. Maulana and Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

## Pact on ancestral domain seen this month

**CAMP AQUINO, TARLAC CITY**—The panels negotiating peace between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front are set to sign this month an accord on ancestral domain, the third and final agenda that would pave the way for the conclusion of peace talks in September.

Rene Sarmiento, deputy presidential adviser on the peace process, revealed this development here on Wednesday.

He said the issue on ancestral domain had been hammered out after the panel settled the agenda on economic development and rehabilitation, and security and ceasefire.

"This is going to be a very important milestone," Sarmiento told the INQUIRER.



SARMIENTO

In an interview during a presentation of updates on ongoing negotiations with rebel groups, Sarmiento said the MILF was having its land rights recognized

within the framework of the Ipra (Indigenous Peoples Rights Act).

"Many people are saying that there would be a Moro homeland. Christian groups have apprehensions about this. They have nothing to fear; no separate territory shall be carved for them (MILF)," he said.

Sarmiento said the consensus on the last issue had been reached in the 10th exploratory talks held in Malaysia on Feb. 6.

Both parties can now move forward in the signing of a comprehensive agreement in the three areas of concern, he said.

"We are now at the home stretch," he said, referring to the negotiations that began three

years ago with the 15,000-strong MILF, which he described as the "biggest organized Islamic force in the world."

The talks, which he said Malaysia has helped facilitate and which Libya and Indonesia have closely monitored, have also prepared the establishment of the Bangsa Moro Development Authority (BMDA).

In the pledging session held in October last year, Sarmiento said several countries have committed P143 million for the capability building of the BMDA.

"Governments are watching how this agreement is going to conclude," he said.

Sarmiento said he saw no major hitches coming in the run-up to the September settlement.

At the same time, he said the ceasefire between the military and the MILF has "held on," with skirmishes "significantly dropping" in recent months.

"I'm very optimistic about the conclusion because both parties are positive about it," Sarmiento said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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The PAGASA, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereinunder project.

Name of Project:

Rental of Photocopying machines, Security and Janitorial Services

Qty/Unit	Brief Description	Approved Budget for the Contract	Contract Duration
Lot 1	Security Services (33 Security Guards)	P 3,946,140.00	May to December 2006
Lot 2	Janitorial Services (39 Janitors)	P 3,416,590.24	May to December 2006
Lot 2	Rental of Photocopying Machines	P 467,000.00	May to December 2006

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be covered by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Schedule/Time	Venue
1. Issuance of Bid Requirements & Bidding Documents	March 9-22, 2006	General Services Section 3/F PAGASA Central Office Bldg.
2. Pre-bid Conference	March 23, 2006 / 2:00 p.m.	Amihan Conference Room 2/F PAGASA Central Office Bldg.
3. Opening of Eligibility Requirements and Envelope I	April 4, 2006 / 9:00-11:00 a.m.	
4. Opening of Bids - Envelope II	April 4, 2006 / 2:00 p.m.	
5. Bid Evaluation & Post-qualification	April 5-19, 2006	
6. Notice of Award	April 26, 2006	

Interested parties may avail Bid Requirements and Bidding Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee equivalent to 0.2% of the approved budget per item in case lower than P500.00 and not more than P1,000.00 to the PAGASA Cashier, upon presentation of this advertisement clipping together with the Company's TIN.

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# METRO

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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## Cops hit wrong target

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

SEVEN TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT Group (TMG) operatives were relieved yesterday, hours after they fired at a car driven by the vice president of a pharmaceutical firm in what the police said was a case of mistaken identity.

Randolph Clareto, 46, sustained gunshot wounds in his leg and shoulder after police fired at his silver Toyota Vios in Pasig City a few minutes after midnight yesterday.

"It was a miracle I survived. They were determined to kill whoever was inside the car," he said in radio interviews.

TMG Chief Supt. Augusto Angcanaan identified the operatives as SPO2 Jaime de Guzman, SPO1 Joseph Martin, PO3 Jerry Atencio, PO2 Raxcel Naprato, PO2 Reynaldo Pedagrosa, PO2 Marcelino Dacoyio and PO1

Arthur Olosan.

"This is really a very unfortunate incident. The ones that conducted the road block have been disarmed, and their firearms subjected to a ballistic exam," said Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao Jr., Philippine National Police spokesperson. Police said the TMG operatives were running after fleeing suspected car thieves.

The chase, which began in Quezon City Tuesday night, reached Lanuza Street in Barangay Ugong, Pasig City, shortly after midnight yesterday.

Clareto, who was on his way home to Barangay Pinagbuhutan, was passing by the street at about the same time when the TMG operatives fired on his car. "They started to fire indiscriminately. They did not even flag me down," he told radio station dzBB.

Clareto said the shots were all concentrated on his side, shattering the window and hurling glass shards all over him. He said he continued to drive, keeping his head bowed. To his surprise, the armed men no longer followed him. Clareto stopped at a gasoline station and saw his headboard "had three bullets." Wounded and his tires running flat, he managed to drive to the Rizal Medical Center for treatment.

The TMG operatives, it later turned out, were after a group of car thieves onboard a silver Toyota Altis. Police later found the Altis which had been abandoned on Lanuza Street near corner CS.

The car thieves, it turned out, had commandeered a Mitsubishi Galant driven by Brian Raymundo, to elude the police.

Raymundo said the suspects left him with his car when they reached Levenza Street in Pasay City, near De La Salle University.

With Luigi A. del Puerto



MRT service stops  
 protester takes  
 case to top

MRT operations were suspended temporarily as rescuers tried to get Christopher Abdula off the concrete column supporting the train system's rails above the Guadalupe bridge in Makati City.

the train system's rails above the Guadalupe bridge in Makati City.

MRT operations were halted for 40 minutes as engineers cut power to the overhead electrical lines, while rescuers and firemen attempted to secure Abdula.

The 31 year-old vendor, a Mandaluyong City resident, had climbed up the bridge at a few minutes after 7 a.m. to protest the seizure of his cart by enforcers of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

Abdula carried a placard with the message, "Hirap na hirap na kami, patuloy kaming binabagsak (Life is already so hard but they keep on bringing us down)."

With five children to feed, Abdula was apparently frustrated that his cart and goods had been seized at least four times by MMDA enforcers, he added.

More than two hours later, Abdula willingly went down the steel bridge.

He was taken to the National Center for Mental Health in Mandaluyong to undergo psychiatric evaluation, rescuers said.

## Gov't serious in smuggling campaign

AT LAST, THE GOVERNMENT has shown earnestness in its anti-smuggling campaign by arresting an alleged smuggler, Samuel Lee. The police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) arrested Lee upon his arrival from Hong Kong and charged him with violation of the customs and Tariff Code. The CIDG also charged Lee with attempted bribery after he offered a P300,000 bribe to the arresting team. The Quezon City Prosecutor's Office, however, recommended Lee's release.

Whether he was released or not is not important. What is important is that Lee, considered untouchable at the piers and the



"swing," the Bureau of Customs (BOC) term for taking out cargo without paying duties and taxes. Despite the exposé in this space, Lee and other smugglers still engaged in "swing." My exposé has alienated me from the person whose friendship I value most. But between my personal feelings and my profession, I will choose the latter. Friends come and go but I will be in my profession for life.

\*\*\*

Because of the drive against smuggling, the BOC has collected more revenues in the first two months of this year than in the same period last year.

## 'Village' tenant held for cabbie slay

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A RESIDENT OF AN EXCLUSIVE village in Muntinlupa City has been charged with robbery and homicide for allegedly killing a cab driver in his own turf. Javier Gallent, 38, was arrested on Mon-

day on Merville Street, Parañaque City, after leading policemen on a two-hour chase, city police chief Supt. Roberto Ronavilla said. Watchmen at Alabang Hills Village, where Gallent lives, said the suspect entered the subdivision on Sunday on board a

taxi driven by Aloreno Dinobo. The guards later found Dinobo's body in a vacant lot near Gallent's house. He had been shot once in the nape. The suspect, however, claimed that he left for a friend's house after the taxi driver had dropped him off at his home.

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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

## Pacquiao should fight Morales first—Roach

ERIK MORALES FIRST, THEN, PERHAPS, Marco Antonio Barrera.

Renowned trainer Freddie Roach declared this yesterday just hours after World Boxing Council super featherweight champ Marco Antonio Barrera issued a challenge to Filipino superstar Manny Pacquiao.

Roach, in an interview with leading website Boxingtalk, indicated his displeasure over the timing of Barrera's dare, and even went farther as to say Barrera wants Pacquiao's place at the top.

"Right now Barrera wants to be where Manny is, and that's on top. We have to give Erik Morales his opportunity as the contract states," Roach said, referring to the Sept. 16 third match between Pacquiao and Morales which was part of the contract they signed.



ROACH

before their rematch last Jan. 21. "If Erik chooses not to fight Manny then perhaps we look at Barrera," he added.

Roach also said there had been offers for Barrera to fight Pacquiao in the past for a grudge rematch, but the Mexican always had a reason not to fight.

"Before Manny was where he is now, every time we tried to get a fight with Barrera, there was always a reason they didn't want the fight," Roach told Boxingtalk.

The Filipino had earlier stopped Barrera in the 11th round of a non-title match in November 2003.

Pacquiao is set to return to the country on March 12 from a vacation in Hong Kong together with his family. Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor

## P'foods wins as Yap shines

GAMES TOMORROW (Araneta Coliseum)  
4:40 p.m.—Sta. Lucia Realty vs Purefoods  
7:35 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Barangay Ginebra

By June Navarro

JAMES YAP FIRED A CAREER-HIGH 34 points to propel Purefoods Chunkee to a conference-opening 104-88 victory over Sta. Lucia Realty last night in the Gran Matador Brandy-PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Criticized for a missed layup in the dying seconds of last conference's Finals series, Yap acquitted himself by going 14 of 21 from the field, including 11 points in the third period that opened up an 81-62 spread for the Giants.

"He (Yap) responded to my challenge for him to score more," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio. "This is his best game as a PBA player."

Yap muffed the shot that could have changed the complexion of the Giants' championship fate with 11 seconds left against Red Bull in the finale of their Fiesta Conference Finals series.

Memories of that Game 6 disaster were wiped out partly because of Yap's breakout game and the Giants' confidence in running the break.

"We could be the smallest team in the league

but the good thing about it is we readily recognize our weakness," said Gregorio. "We cannot battle other teams in a half-court game. We don't have the size so at least we should be quicker."

In the second game, Mark Caguioa had 39 points, shooting 17 of 23 from the field, to lead Barangay Ginebra to a 98-81 rout of Talk 'N Text.

Three other Kings provided solid numbers with Eric Menk chipping in 16 points and 16 rebounds, Rommel Adducal contributing 15 and 14 and Mike Holper adding 10 and nine boards.

The scores:

PUREFOODS 104—Yap 34, Raymundo 18, Pingris 17, Limpot 12, Arach 8, Yee 4, Castillo 4, Tajada 3, Biltones 2, Yap R. 2, Evangelista 0.

STA. LUCIA 88—Espino 31, Tolomia 15, Durandres 13, Cabugot 10, Omolot 5, Darague 5, Mendoza 3, Cabil 2, Aquino 2, Gonzales 2, Calmaq 0, Agapito 0.

Quarters: 29-24, 40-33, 61-62, 104-88.

GINBRA 98—Caguioa 39, Menk 16, Adducal 14, Holper 10, Heterland 8, Fumria 7, Santos 4, Macapagal 0, Sotto 0, Dimarahan 0.

TALK 'N TEXT 81—Miller 25, Taulava 17, Cardona 12, Carey 10, Ferolito 4, Alapag 4, Pablo 4, Villota 2, Meneses 2, Avelino 1, 10.

Quarters: 19-19, 39-33, 71-56, 98-81

## Austria returns to PBL

By Jasmine W. Payo

GEARING UP FOR A SMOOTH TRANSITION to the pro league, Rain or Shine yesterday appointed Leo Austria as head coach of its final amateur run in the Philippine Basketball League.

"I'm really honored with the trust given me," said Austria, who will also serve as lead tactician of Welcoat Paints, which will be the franchise's banner name when it debuts in the Philippine Basketball Association this October.

Rain or Shine will be shooting for its seventh title when it plays its last conference in the Unity Cup starting March 25.

"I'll do everything in my capacity to give the team a fitting farewell in the league," noted Austria.

The 47-year-old mentor replaced Caloy Gar-

cia, who agreed to step down as his assistant.

Austria is no stranger to the squad, having called the shots for the Panthers from 2001 to 2004, which included a championship run in the 2003 Challenge Cup.

In 2004, Austria relinquished his post to Garcia, also his assistant then, when he joined Shell as its head coach in the PBA.

Austria returned to Welcoat as head of basketball operations after Shell disbanded late last year.

But it would be a juggling act for Austria. Last November, Adamson University also tapped Austria to coach the Falcons in the coming UAAP.

While Austria tries to wrap up Rain or Shine's PBL campaign, he will also be rebuilding a struggling collegiate team and forming a competitive pro squad.

## Tierro clinches Delhi slot

By Dennis U. Eroa  
Libre sports editor

PATRICK JOHN TIERRO, the country's top netter, frustrated local hope Vardhan Vishun, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3, in the first round of the India Association of Tennis Professionals/International Tennis Federation Satellite recently in New Delhi.

The win enabled the 20-year-old Tierro to clinch a slot in the \$25,000 New Delhi Masters slated next week.

Tierro's second round foe is Manuel Jorquera of Italy in the round of 16. Jorquera is No. 600 in the world.

Win or lose, Tierro is now assured of getting ATP points which should enable the Filipino Davis Cupper to crack the world's top 1,000 list.

To make it to the main draw, Tierro, who trains under Beeyong Sison at the Subic Bay International Tennis Center, had to survive Indians Viji Sehgal, 6-1,



TIERRO

6-2, and Dipesh Rao, 6-4, 7-6 (5), in the qualifying.

Among those competing in the tournament are world No. 373 and top seed Alexey Rednikov of Kazakhstan, second seed and world No. 435 Herbert Witschnig of Austria and his compatriot Philipp Muhlemann, who is the fourth seed with an ATP ranking of 476. Local bet Vishal Uppal of India (ATP No. 522) is the fourth seed.

The 6-foot-1 Tierro won a gold medal as part of the men's team in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games last December.

Tierro has now qualified to the Masters of all three ATP/ITF Satellite events he has joined since 2004.

Backed up by Cebuana Lhuillier sponsor-businessman Jean Henri Lhuillier and Phita president Manuel Misa, Tierro's campaign is part of the five-year developmental plan mapped out by Sison.

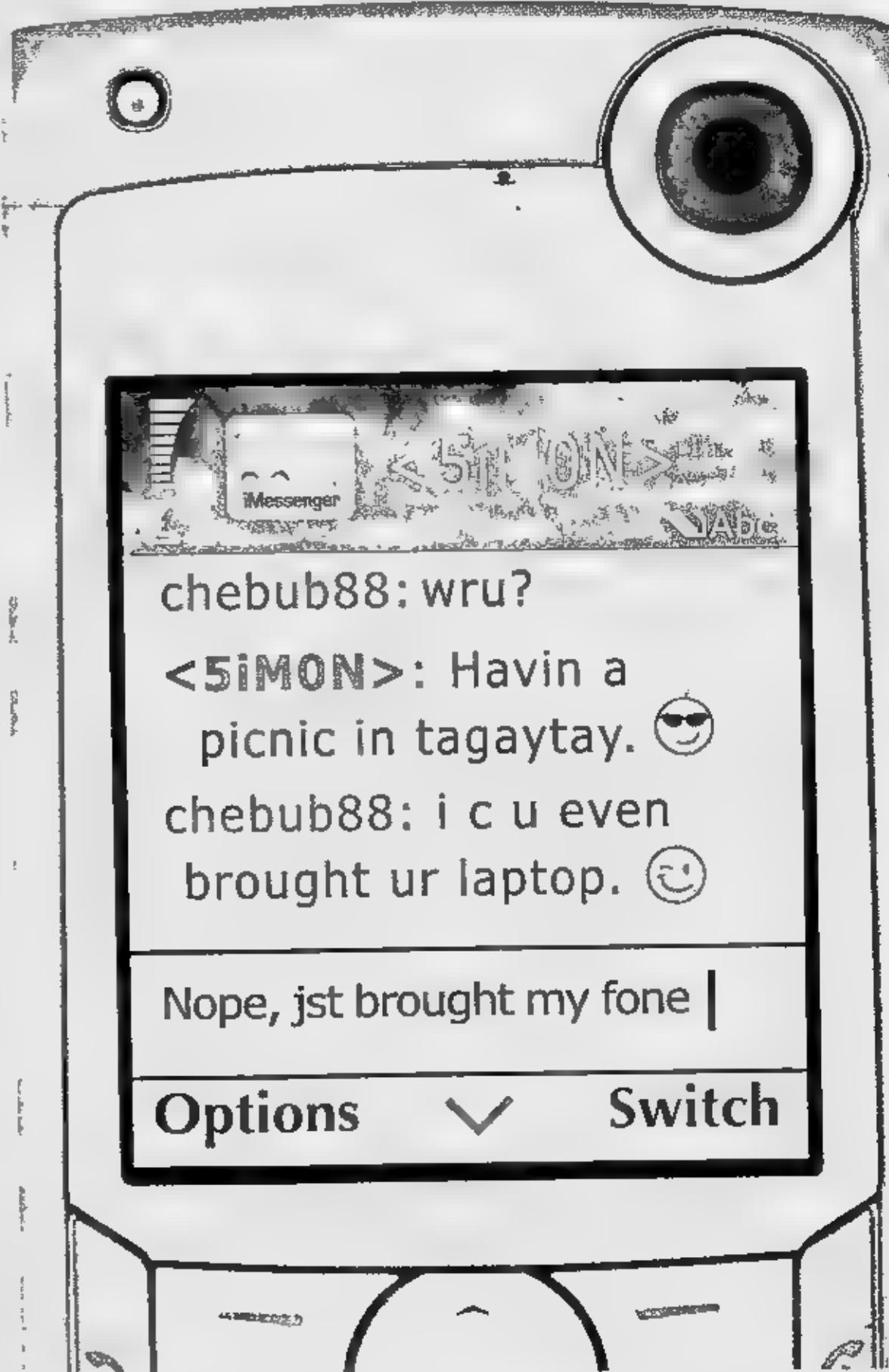
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## Pacquiao named Boxer of the Year

BOXING ICON MANNY PACQUIAO heads Filipino world and international titleholders in the Elorde Banquet of Champions during the 6th Gabriel "Flash" Elorde Memorial Awards set March 25 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko.

Pacquiao, whose win over Hector Velasquez in September last year gave him worldwide fame, will re-

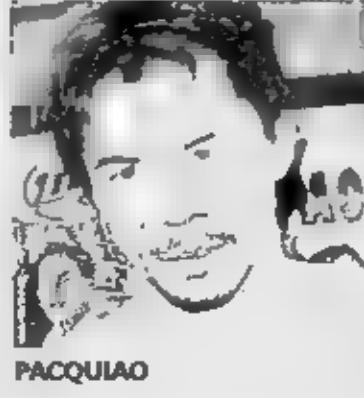
ceive the Boxer of the Year award for the fifth time.

The Elorde Memorial Awards is presented by Johnny Elorde Management International and the Gabriel "Flash" Elorde Foundation.

The Elorde clan, led by Elorde's wife, Laura, will be on hand to present the various awards. Daughter-in-law Luisa Elorde is

overseeing the event honoring the former world champion.

The event is sponsored by Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corp., Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Family Rubbing Alcohol, Smart, San Miguel Corp., Casa Belrina Travel, Johnson & Johnson, Bai & Mig Party Favors and Elorde Sports Center.



PACQUIAO



RENAN Morales (Car 26) struggles to ward off Uly Maninding in the morning race. But his consistency eventually rewarded Morales with a sweep and the Group 3 crown of the recent Philippine Touring Car Championship 2005.

## Morales rules Group 3

SUBIC—RENAN MORALES OF Shift Racing pulled off a sweep and ruled Group 3 recently in the Philippine Touring Car Championship 2005 at the Subic International Raceway.

Morales posted the fastest lap-time of 1:24.83 to pull away early from the pack en route to his vic-

tory in the event sanctioned by the governing Automobile Association of the Philippines.

He won 10 of the 12 races for a total of 272 points. In the coming season late April, he will be elevated to the Group 1 category along with the bigwigs like Jody Coeteng, Kookie and Louis Ramirez.

The expenses for staging the Palaro, estimated to be from P20 million to P50 million, are embodied in the budget proposal of the organizing Department of Education which is now being tackled by Congress.

Rep. Monica Puentevella, one of the proponents of an increased budget in sports, said everything depends on the bicameral hearing late this month.

The Palaro, featuring high school and elementary athletes from the public schools, has a long history of getting shelved due to monetary constraints. The event was shelved the last time in 2002 when the money, coming from then organizer Philippine Sports Commission, was diverted to the country's campaign in the Busan Asian Games.

## Budget approval key for Palaro 06

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PALARONG PAMBANSA IN NAGA CITY IN Bicol this May is in danger of being scrapped unless the 2006 national budget is approved.

The expenses for staging the Palaro, estimated to be from P20 million to P50 million, are embodied in the budget proposal of the organizing Department of Education which is now being tackled by Congress.

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Puentevella said he discussed the Palaro budget this year during a meeting with DepEd Secretary Fe Hidalgo two weeks ago and again in Congress last Monday.

"It (the Palaro) is in their proposed budget being presented in Congress now," said Puentevella. "If we pass the new budget it's included there. Depends when we approve it. But I'm optimistic we'll pass the new budget with the support of the Senate."

Palaro regional coordinator Len Toledo expressed confidence the event would be held this year because there's no need to spend on infrastructure as the Naga City Sports Complex has been kept in good shape.

He also noted that the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. spent for the 2005 Palaro in Iloilo last year and this could be done again this year.

The PSC itself is bracing for harder times with the Department of Budget and Management proposing only a P28 million budget this year.

## Paragua-Dableo title showdown

SAN FERNANDO CITY, LA UNION—Grandmaster Mark Paragua beat defending champion GM Joey Antonio, 1.5-0.5, Wednesday to arrange a title clash with bosom buddy International Master Ronald Dableo in the fifth La Union Open Chess Championships at the Diego Silang Hall of the La Union Provincial Capitol Building here.

The top-seeded Paragua downed Antonio after 43 moves of a Reti Opening in Game 1 and settled for the needed draw in Game 2 after 51 moves of a Sicilian Defense to post a 1.5-0.5 victory.

Dableo, on the other hand, bested IM Richard Bitton, 3-2. He beat Bitton in Game 1 after 34 moves of an English Opening, but yielded Game 2 after 46 pushes of a French Duel. The 1-1 tie in the standard format forced a tie breaker in the blitz format.

Bitton took a 1-0 lead in the seven minutes plus three seconds increment playoff, but Dableo rebounded by taking Game 2.

Dableo, head coach of University of Sto. Tomas, won the toss coin and choose the white pieces for the last tie breaker which he won. NM Marlon Bernardino

## SPORTSWATCH

### CDO Rapids tangle with Iligan

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—THE MINDANAO VISAYAS BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION (MVBA) resumes today with the host Cagayan de Oro Rapids of Mayor Vicente "Dongboy" Y. Emano making their season debut versus league leader Iligan City of Mayor Lawrence L. Cruz at the Xavier University Gym. Game time is at 5:30 p.m. with a huge hometown crowd expected to support the Rapids in this event backed up by ML Kwarta Padala, Panasonic and Nature's Spring Drinking Water. Rapids coach Edgardo Decoco will lean on team captain Mark Apope, Ranilo Nunez, Restyel Getubig and Rocky Sanchez to put a stain on Iligan City's clean 2-0 slate. Apope averages 23.8 points while Nunez and Getubig delivered 22.3 and 16 points, respectively, during the MVBA pre-season games.

### Arcilla, Anasta in Kobe Gakuin Cup

NATIONAL PLAYER JOHNNY ARCILLA AND ELBERT ANASTA DOWNED SEPARATE RIVALS YESTERDAY TO ENTER THE SEMIFINALS OF THE 2006 KOBE GAKUIN CUP INVITATIONAL TENNIS EVENT AT THE AYALA ALABANG TENNIS CLUB. Arcilla downed Fuyuki Ogawa, 6-3, 6-1, while Anasta routed Junpei Okubo, 6-2, 6-1, to remain unbeaten. Chernel Mantua defeated Masaki Kawazu, 6-3, 6-3. Rocky Paglalunan and Dodong Rubilar also won to improve to 6-1. Paglalunan beat Shimpei Monguchi, 6-3, 6-1, and Rubilar outplayed Naoki Miyake, 7-5, 6-3. Gilbert Estrada beat Shohel Maruyama, 6-3, 6-2, and Jaime Solon stopped Masaya Taira, 6-3, 6-2.

### Infusion basketball boosts Spalding

IN DEVELOPING THE INFUSION, THE FIRST EVER BASKETBALL WITH A BUILT-IN MICRO PUMP, SPALDING—THE WORLD'S LEADING BASKETBALL MAKER—LITERALLY RELIED ON ROCKET SCIENCE IN MAKING THE CUTTING EDGE IN BASKETBALL TECHNOLOGY. Dan Touhey, vice president of marketing, said his research and development team lapped a former NASA engineer in Spalding's golf product division, which controlled brands such as Top-Flite golf balls and Ben Hogan clubs. Proline Sports Center, the exclusive distributor of Spalding NBA basketball in the Philippines, expects the Spalding Infusion to be a continuous hit in Metro Manila.

### Largahan derby weigh-in tomorrow

COCKERS AND BREEDERS MUST SUBMIT THEIR ENTRIES FROM 9 A.M. TO 9 p.m. tomorrow in connection with Rollon Mega Cockpit's Largahan 6-cock derby. Apart from the guaranteed prize of P2 million, a brand new Toyota Vios, now on display at Rollon lobby, will be given to the fastest win champion, said host Rolly Ligon. Over 100 entries are set to compete on Saturday's opening round (2-cock) which will start at 2 p.m. Other elimination rounds are scheduled on March 14 and 16. Qualifiers will face off on March 18 for the title. Entry fee is P400. For inquiries, contact 851-2275, 833-1638 and 852-9812.

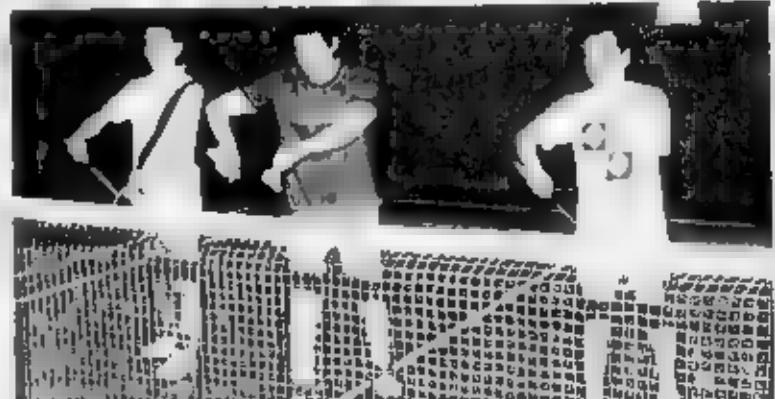


## Dimarucot-Villanueva tops doubles

DENDEN DIMARUCOT AND GABRIEL VILLANUEVA topped the men's doubles level A to lead other winners in the recent Hanford The Love Match and Set Game N Match badminton tournament at the Banawa Badminton Arcade in Quezon City.

The other champions were Justin Reyes and Samuny Ong (level B), Dennis Go and Rey Magalanes (level C); Alejandro Dencola and James Logan (level D); Carlo Remo and Kevin Suarez (level E); Wilmer Fria and Gerelyn Glico (mixed doubles level A); Rommel Parone and Christian Balita (level B); Andrew and Ruby Castillo (level C); Prolan Tadeo and Maricel Morales (level D); and Ricardo Sunga and Gie Gutierrez (level E).

Movie and television actor Dingdong Dantes, who also plays badminton and is an image model/endorser of Hanford, did the ceremonial serve with Albert Lee, managing director of Banawa Badminton Arcade; and Gilbert Chua, CEO of Capsmaker Inc., the exclusive distributor of Fleet Rackets and Shuttlecocks in the Philippines. The two-day tournament attracted 248 sets. Fleet Rackets and Shuttlecocks, Visual Impact Productions Ads Co., National Manufacturing and Industrial Product Corp., Proline Industrial and Manufacturing Corp., Archangel's Collection, Robson, BSI Medicated Spray, Second Edition, GU Engineering, Badminton Phils, Classique and Han Lee restaurant supported the event.



DINGDONG Dantes does the ceremonial serve of Hanford The Love Match and Set Game N Match tournament held recently at the Banawa Badminton Arcade in Quezon City. With him are Albert Lee (left) and Gilbert Chua.

## An invitation to drive.

### The Autohaus BMW Dealer Qualifying Tournament 2006

The BMW Golf Cup International kicks off with the Autohaus BMW Dealer Qualifying Tournament on March 10, 2006 at the Wack Wack Golf & Country Club.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2006

## SPORTS

AP

## WORLD BASEBALL CLASSIC

## US trips Mexico; Puerto Rico, D. Republic score

PHOENIX DERREK LEE AND CHIPPER Jones homered, Jake Peavy and six US relievers combined on a four-hitter and the United States beat Mexico 2-0 Tuesday.

Lee connected off starter Rodrigo Lopez and Jones homered on the first pitch he saw in the tournament—off Oscar Villarreal in the seventh.

That was plenty of offense for the pitching United States team.

Peavy allowed one hit—an infield single by Karim Garcia to start the game. The 24-year-old San Diego Padres right-hander struck out three, throwing just 23 pitches.

Mike Timlin, Chad Cordero, Dan Wheeler, Todd Jones, Joe Nathan and Brad Lidge each threw an inning of relief for the US squad, which has 11 relievers on its roster.

The US pitchers combined for nine strikeouts and no walks, shutting out Mexico in 2 hours, 6 minutes.

In Kissimmee, Florida, David Ortiz and Adrian Beltre each homered twice, leading the powerful Dominican Republic to an 11-5 victory over Venezuela in the opening game of Pool D, a tough grouping that also includes Australia and Italy.

Bartolo Colon, the 2005 American League Cy Young pitching award winner for the Los Angeles Angels, pitched three scoreless innings for the win before leaving after 50 pitches—well below the opening-round limit of 65.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, Bernie Williams hit a tiebreaking single, Alex Rodriguez homered and Puerto Rico opened the World Baseball Classic with a 2-1 squeaker over Panama.

Javier Vazquez got help from his bullpen, and Williams' single up the middle scored Alex Cintron in the fifth inning to put Puerto Rico ahead before a home crowd of more than 19,000 at Hiram Bithorn Stadium.

# Yao keys Rockets' triumph

MINNEAPOLIS—WITH Yao Ming emerging as an offensive force, the Houston Rockets didn't need superstar forward Tracy McGrady on Tuesday.

Yao topped 20 points for the eighth straight game, scoring 30 points and grabbing 13 rebounds to lead the Rockets to a 93-87 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

With McGrady on the bench again with back problems, Yao dominated the paint and Stromile Swift added 11 points and nine boards off the bench for Houston, which used a 12-0 run to start the fourth quarter to get their third straight victory.

"Without McGrady our record is pretty poor," Yao said of the Rockets' 2-13 mark without their star forward. "Before today we only had one. I really feel a lot of pressure because my teammates look to me and my opponents focus on me, double team a lot, but we're here, there's no way back."

In other games it was: New York 107, Indiana 92; Boston 116, Washington 115, OT; Atlanta 113, Gold-

en State 106; Cleveland 106, Toronto 99; Chicago 95, New Jersey 87; Dallas 93, Portland 87; LA Clippers 98, San Antonio 85.

Kevin Garnett made only six of 17 shots, but scored 15 points and had 21 rebounds for the Timberwolves.

The Rockets again were without McGrady, their leading scorer at 24.6 points a game, after his bothersome back flared up in Sunday's game against Portland.

But Yao more than compensated, extending his career-best streak of 20-plus points in style.

"I know at least in the last five games, to me he's completely dominated," David Wesley said. "Numbers like 29 (points) and 15 (rebounds), 22 and 21, double-doubles every night."



LEBRON James scores on a drive in Cleveland's 106-99 victory over Toronto.

REUTERS

## NBC welcomes Pangasinan

NATIONAL BASKETBALL CONFERENCE (NBC) president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla officially welcomed Pangasinan-Hundred Islands recently at the Philippine Columbian Association clubhouse.

"We are very happy that your province has put up a team for this year's NBC tournament," Padilla told Congressman Mark Cojuangco, Amado Espino and Conrad Estrella, Alaminos City Mayor Nan Braganza, Dagupan Vice Mayor Alvin Fernandez and engineer Rosendo So after the contract signing.

Padilla said Pangasinan's entry is a big boost to the credibility of NBC, which has been promoting regional basketball for three years now.

Mayor Braganza, who initiated the move to



NBC PRESIDENT Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla (third from left) and Alaminos City Mayor Hernani Braganza shake hands after the contract signing joined by other Pangasinan and NBC officials.

join NBC, is optimistic that the expansion Pangasinan squad will be able to make a big impact in its first season.

"Pangasinan has produced a lot of good players," said Braganza.

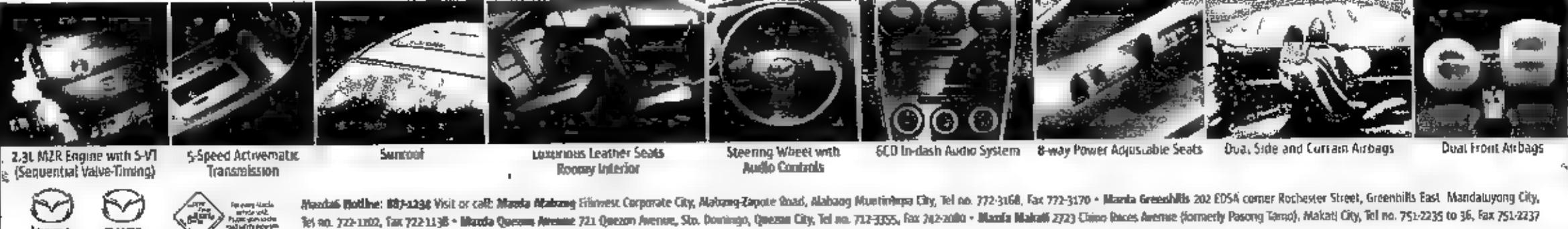


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## ENTERTAINMENT

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KATHERINE Luna and Coco Martin in "Masahista"

## 5 RP films among world's best in '05

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

FOREIGN CRITICS HAVE RANKED five Filipino films among the best movies of 2005

On the website Senses of Cinema, the titles "Ebolusyon ng Isang Pamilyang Pilipino" by Lav Diaz; "Idol," "Mondomanua: Institute of Poets" and "Ang Pamilyang Kumpakain ng Lupe" by Khavn de la Cruz; and "Masahista" by Brillante Mendoza appeared in a poll participated in by respected reviewers and which included such familiar titles as "2046" by Wong Kar Wai, "Brokeback Mountain" by Ang Lee, "A History of Violence" by David Cronenberg and "The New World" by Terrence Malick.

The web site prides itself in being "an online journal devoted to the serious and eclectic discussion of cinema."

The 10-hour "Ebolusyon" was chosen by three contributing critics—Italy's Paolo Bertolin, Austria's Christoph Huber and Germany's Olaf Möller.

## Eagerly awaited

Huber of the Vienna Cinémathèque included Lino Brocka's 1974 film "Tirumbang Ka Ngunit Kulang" in a special retrospective list of "15 Discoveries."

Bertolin, a contributor to the newspaper Il Manifesto and the magazine Cineforum, dubbed Diaz's three-hour work-in-

Teri Onor stood up by TV pals

By Marinel R. Cruz

I COULDNT LOOK AT MY GUESTS IN THE eye. I couldn't tell them that some of the performers weren't showing up."

Comedian Teri Onor was telling INQUIRER Entertainment on Tuesday how he felt when his co-stars in the GMA 7 sitcom, "Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita," failed to turn up for his Feb. 28 show at the Zirkoh Comedy Bar in Quezon City.

Teri said he had invited Richard Gomez, Benjie Paras and Raymart Santiago to drop by for "Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita sa Kuya mo," Zirkoh's anniversary presentation.

Richard, Benjie, Raymart and Joey Marquez play Teri's brothers in "Lagot Ka."

"None of them came," Teri said. "Fortunately, the guests did not complain. But the guys phoned me as soon as they heard about the mix up and apologized. They said no one reminded them."

Teri said his manager, Jim Nardo, sent word to Richard, Benjie and Raymart three weeks before the show. "They all said yes. So we included their names in the publicity materials," said Teri.

In the end, it was Jimmy Santos, Jose Manalo and Walley—his co-hosts on the noontime show, "Eat Bulaga!"—plus Maureen Larazabal and stand-up comic Philip Lazaro "who came to my rescue," Teri said. "I will forever be grateful to them."

TERI: They've apologized. RAPPLER

5 RP/A2-2

5 RP/A2-2

## Another housemate leaves PBB happily

By Nini Valera

WHEN THE PHILIPPINES VOTED and turned in only 13.5 percent of the total votes for "Pinoy Big Brother" celebrity housemate Christian Vasquez, the country was actually rooting for him.

Thus was how the model/actor from Bacolod saw his eviction from Big Brother's house last weekend, after 29 days—the second housemate to get the boot.

When his nomination was an-

nounced a week before the eviction, Christian had asked viewers of the ABS-CBN reality show to decide whether he should stay or leave the house to be with his sons, Ryan and Martin.

"I guess the public wanted me to be reunited with my boys," Christian, 29, told INQUIRER Entertainment on Monday during his exit interview.

The actor is a single father; his wife left several years ago. The boys live with his parents in Ba-

ANOTHER/A2-2

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A2-1

## ENTERTAINMENT

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Know...

"MARCH OF THE PENGUINS," Best Documentary Feature winner in this year's Oscars, will have a Tagalog version to be narrated by Sharon Cuneta and to be released locally by Unitel. Morgan Freeman lent his voice to the English version. Apart from the original French, Luc Jacquet's documentary on emperor penguins also had Chinese, Japanese, Finnish, Italian and Brazilian versions.



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THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2006

## ENTERTAINMENT



## So how did 'Brokeback' lose?



JACK Nicholson, Best Picture presenter.

NEW YORK—WE JOKED ABOUT IT, argued about it, spoofed it. "Brokeback Mountain" was everywhere in our popular culture—yet it lost the big Oscar it was supposed to win.

After Jack Nicholson announced "Crash" as Best Picture at the conclusion of the Academy Awards on Sunday, he shrugged his shoulders as if to say, "Don't look at me."

Was it a "Broke Backlash," or was "Crash" just the worthy contender in the final stretch? There are as many theories as there are "Brokeback" parodies on the Net.

One theory is that, despite the hoopla, Academy voters didn't really love the saga of two gay cowboys. "Sometimes people pretend to like movies more

than they actually do," said Richard Walter, head of the screenwriting program at the University of California, Los Angeles Film School.

Critic Kenneth Turan, writing in the Los Angeles Times, said the movie "made people distinctly uncomfortable." He added: "In the privacy of the voting booth ... people are free to act out the unspoken fears and ... prejudices that they would never breathe to another soul, or acknowledge to themselves. This year, that acting out doomed 'Brokeback Mountain'."

## Beyond accolades

Gay activists did not necessarily agree.

Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, the largest US gay rights group, said: "I was certainly disappointed. But I would trade that Oscar for all the positive conversations that this movie spurred between parents and their gay children, or between employees and their gay co-workers. That impact transcends accolades."

Some focused on the typical Academy voter: older, and city-dwelling. Author and "Brokeback" co-screenwriter Larry McMurtry thought that was key to his film's loss: "We are an urban nation."

McMurtry could have added that not only are Academy voters urban, they are from Los Angeles—the heart of "Crash," a racial drama depicting the intertwining experiences of an array of characters over 36 hours.

"Brokeback" director Ang Lee, who won the directing prize, said he hadn't a clue why his film lost.

"Crash" came out to mixed reviews in May, much too early for a film to stay in voters' minds. But Lionsgate Films reminded voters and critics of the film's potency by flooding them with DVD copies in late 2005.

So what is to be learned from Sunday night's upset result? Not much, says Walter, the film professor. You just really never know what Academy voters are going to do.

Jocelyn Noveck, AP

## ROUNDUP

## Mom, are you gay?

NEW YORK—Madonna says she had some explaining to do when her daughter, Lourdes, asked about that kiss with Britney Spears at the 2003 MTV Video Music Awards.

"[Lourdes] is really obsessed with who is gay," says Madonna in an interview in Out magazine's April issue. "She even asked, 'Mom, you know they say that you are gay?' And I'm, 'Oh, do they? Why?' And she says, 'Because you kissed Britney Spears.' And I said, 'No, it just means I kissed Britney Spears. I am the mommy pop star and she is the baby pop star. And I am kissing her to pass my energy on to her.'

Madonna, 47, famously locked lips with Spears, 24, while performing her songs "Like a Virgin" and "Hollywood" at the awards ceremony.

The pop diva, considered by some to be an icon in the gay community, tells the magazine her 9-year-old daughter likes to guess who is gay: "Oh, and the other thing she likes to do when we go out, she says, 'Mom, do you want me to point out who the gay men are?' And I say, 'Okay, but I think I already know.'"

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RYZA Cenon

Cenon and LJ Reyes, with guests Robert Seña and Isay Alvarez.

"Siklo," written by Rahyan Carlos and directed by Soxie Topacio, recounts how the life of Angel, victim of domestic violence, changes after joining a support group and meeting others like himself. Mike Tan, MC Monterola and Chanda Romero star.

"Lost and Found," a collaboration of father and son Peque and Wangge Gallaga, is a quirky comedy about missing persons and the strange things you discover about people close to you during difficult times. Lead stars are CJ Muere and Michael Garcia.

## Ang Lee's praise

HOLLYWOOD—Oscar-winning "Brokeback Mountain" director Ang Lee has hailed Australia's Heath Ledger's performance as a gay cowboy in the film as a "miracle" of acting.

Taiwanese-born Lee, 51, sang the praises of the 26-year-old who lost out on the Best Actor Oscar to American star Philip Seymour Hoffman, who won for "Capote," during an interview following Sunday's Academy Awards.

"It's not only remarkable, it's almost like a miracle," Lee said. "A lot of people told me that his performance reminds them of a young Brando. It's just outstanding."

He said Hoffman's victory did not detract in any way from Ledger's performance. "He did a marvelous, marvelous, miraculous performance, so original."

The director said he had not seen Ledger since he lost out on his first big chance at Oscar gold.

But Lee said that when he did see Ledger, possibly at an Oscars after party, "I will hug him; I will praise him; I will tell him what he meant in my mind."

APP

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4:00P	4:00P	LAST HOLIDAY
16 BLOCKS	16 BLOCKS	16 BLOCKS
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## FOXTROT



BY BILL AMEND

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

## MARVIN



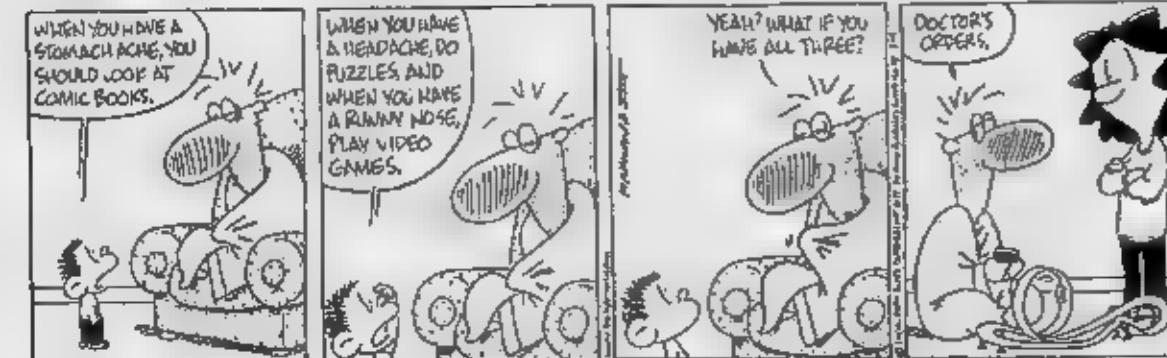
BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY



BY P.M. JUNIOR

## BABY BLUES



BY JERRY SCOTT

## MUTTS



BY PATRICK McDONNELL

## ATOMO AND WEBOY



BY LYRA GARCELLANO

## DIVINE COMEDY



BY STEVEN PABALINAS

## HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

**YOU BORN TODAY:** Because you have the ability to think ahead, you have a good sense of strategy about life. You're genuine and expect others to be honest. You trust your instincts. You like family, yet you want to be free to travel. This year a phase of your life will end to make room for something new to begin.

**Birthdate of:** Mickey Spilane, author; Yuri Gagarin, cosmonaut; Juliette Binoche, actress.

**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19): This can be a lovely day! There's a good chance that someone will do a sweet favor for you. You might even receive a gift or a hot tip from someone.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20): This is a marvelous day at work. Bosses are impressed by you. People are easy to work with. What more could you want?

**LEO** (July 23 to Aug. 22): People are so good to you today, which makes you happy. You're in a position to enjoy the resources and wealth of others. (When Lady Luck smiles on you, just smile back.)

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Wonderful feelings of peace and harmony with others make this a pleasant day for you. Take time to enjoy yourself with others. It's good to cultivate joy.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a good time to ask for whatever you want at work. You just might get it! You have foresight and the ability to see into the future today. Use that!

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Some days we have to work hard; some days we can party. This is a party day for your sign! Enjoy social times with children, friends and romantic interests.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20): This is a wonderful day to enjoy being with groups or friends. People are friendly, warm and ready to have a good time. Get into the spirit of things!

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22): You suddenly have a wonderful opportunity to travel, make travel plans or do something connected with education and publishing. By all means, jump on this!

**LEO** (July 23 to Aug. 22): Wonderful feelings of peace and harmony with others make this a pleasant day for you. Take time to enjoy yourself with others. It's good to cultivate joy.

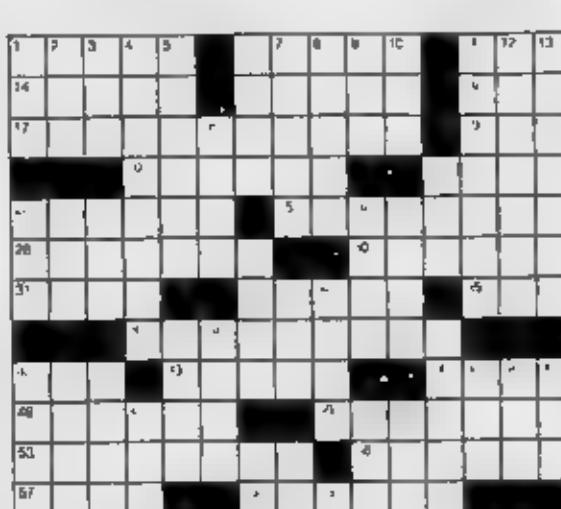
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## DAILY CROSSWORD

## ACROSS

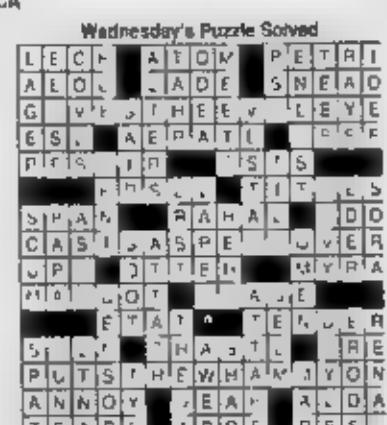
- Corporate IDs
- 8-Wire conduit
- 11 Southern consolation
- 14 Wed on the run
- 15 Florida city
- 16 Actress Ryan
- 17 Start of Evan Esar quote
- 19 Unspecified individual
- 20 Spanish varieties
- 21 Elvis Presley
- 22 Messenger's trip
- 25 Part 2 of quote
- 26 Type of checkers
- 30 Beach, CA
- 31 Prod
- 32 Silly lowl
- 35 Sound of a leak
- 36 Part 3 of quote
- 40 Quick/flash connection
- 43 Ink ingredient
- 44 Madonna hit, "La Bonta"
- 48 Actress Nanette
- 50 Marks of disgrace
- 53 Part 4 of quote
- 56 Overcome with shock
- 57 Willie of baseball
- 58 Position property
- 80 Marmouse connection
- 81 End of quote
- 86 Miguel, CA
- 87 Silly
- 88 Forays
- 69 Blaster's letters
- 70 Pigeon shelters
- 71 Ferber and Best



By Alan P. Olschwang  
Huntington Beach, CA

3/6/01

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



7 Great brilliance  
8 Director Raul  
9 "Kanadu" band  
10 Served like sushi  
11 Passionate and romantic  
12 Makes famous old-style  
13 Meeting plans  
18 Passing lances  
21 Uni neighbor  
22 Ticker tape?  
23 Greek letter  
24 Estuary  
26 "Liberation" lass  
27 French city  
29 Ids' companions  
33 Alan's affirmative  
34 Holds site to  
37 Cold feet  
38 Cells, Ma  
39 Scrooge, e.g.  
40 At the very back of the  
41 Very dry

42 Inactive  
45 Wec in Dundee  
46 Vegas  
47 Nova Scotia  
48 Mrs.  
49 Certain colas  
51 Old Chinese money  
52 Dividend  
54 "Hawaii Five-O"

55 Buzz  
56 Seine sights  
57 Spasm  
58 Lennon's love  
59 yang  
60 Haron room  
65 Ship letters

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THURSDAY,  
MARCH 9, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

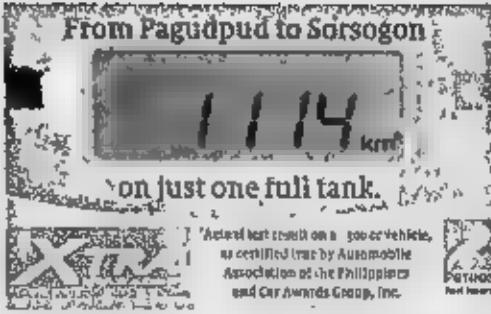
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# BUSINESS

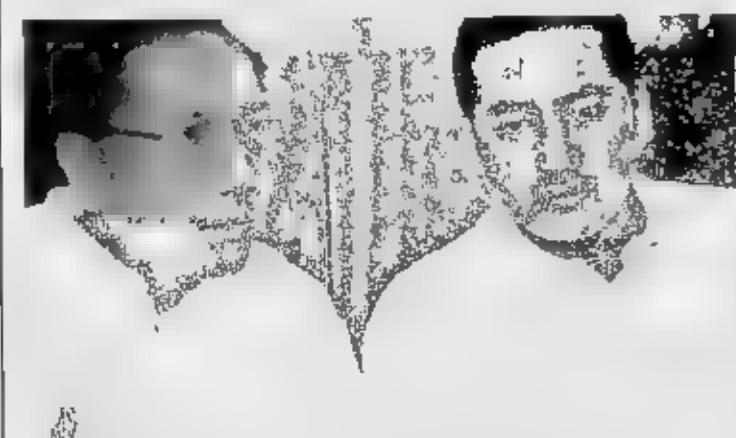
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Website: [www.inq7money.net](http://www.inq7money.net)

Editor Raul O. Marcelo  
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma



# Strengthening peso worries Neda chief



**SUBIC-TARLAC EXPRESSWAY BACK.** BCDA president and CEO Narciso Abaya (left) discusses the Subic-Clark-Tarla corridor with Pampanga Gov. Mark Lapid before the Global Gateways Forum in Pampanga. The event culminated in the signing of a commitment of support for the 93.7-km project by 200 representatives from both national and local government units, NGOs, the business sector and the academe. The P21-billion toll super highway is expected to be completed by the end of 2007.

## IMF sees RP debt burden easing

By Doris C. Dumiao

THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY Fund sees the Philippines cutting its external debt to 47.5 percent of gross domestic product over the next five years from 65.7 percent as of end-2005 if the government would stick to its front-loading of fiscal reforms.

In a report issued by the IMF as part of regular consultations with the government, it said a scenario where reforms would proceed after the full implementation of the value-added tax would see the country's public sector debt declining firmly.

This scenario assumes a primary fiscal deficit downward adjustment

of 2.6 percentage points of GDP from 2005 to 2007 that would, in turn, improve investor confidence and induce higher private sector investment that would perk up GDP growth to 5.5 percent.

Wiping out the fiscal deficits over the medium term, the IMF cautioned, would require additional fiscal measures after the VAT reform.

"Possible options include the rationalization of tax incentives and raising and indexing excise taxes," the IMF said.

A fiscal incentive rationalization bill had been filed in Congress but the IMF said even fiscal managers recognized this would yield limited revenue in its present form.

## BSP urged to intervene to keep rate above P50:\$1

By Michelle V. Remo and Doris C. Dumiao

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NEDA) has called on the government to keep the peso from appreciating further, saying an exchange rate stronger than 50 to a dollar would already be bad for the export sector and the economy as a whole.

Neda Director General Romulo Neri suggested that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) intervene in the market to ensure the peso would not breach the 50:\$1 mark.

"An exchange rate of 51 or 52 (pesos to a dollar) is still comfortable, although exporters are already complaining. We should not let it strengthen below 50," Neri said yesterday in his first press briefing since being reassigned to the Neda last month.

He temporarily headed the Department of Budget and Management following the resignation of Emilia Boncodin. The budget department is now headed by former Rep.

Rolando Andaya.

Neri said revenues of exporters from sectors depending heavily on imported raw materials such as electronics were not much affected. The strengthening value of the peso, which makes these products more costly and therefore less competitive, is offset by the decreasing cost of importing the raw materials.

But exporters who source their raw materials largely from the local market are adversely affected by the appreciation of the local currency. Neri said exporters of handicraft, fruits and various coconut-based products were being threatened to

**STRENGTHENING/B2**

### WHAT'S INSIDE

**AEV obtains P2.2B in loans** /B3

**UAE lifts ban on RP processed meat exports** /B7

## Vehicle sales growth slows due to higher VAT

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GROWTH RATE OF MOTOR vehicle sales dropped to 3.1 percent in the first two months as prices increased due to the higher value-added tax and the upturn in fuel prices, according to an industry report.

Local assemblers sold 13,746 units as of end-February compared to 13,338 units in the same period in 2005.

In a joint report, the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines (Campi) and the

Truck Manufacturers Association (TMA) said political instability also dampened sales as consumers chose to defer their purchases.

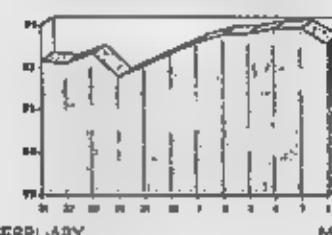
Still, the group said they expected sales to pick up again in March as it usually does every year.

Turnover of commercial vehicles mirrored the overall market performance as sales growth slowed to 4.7 percent in the first two months.

The low supply of some vehicle models also limited the increase in sales of Asian utility vehicles, light commercial vehicles (LCVs), light

**VEHICLE/B2**

### INDICATORS CURRENCIES



FEBRUARY MARCH

**P 51.42 = \$ 1**

As of 5 p.m., March 8, 2006

**V 117.73 = \$ 1**

As of 5 p.m., March 8, 2006

**GOLD: \$550.20-\$550.70**

per ounce Hong Kong, March 8, 2006

### STOCK MARKET

#### Stocks fall on rate woes

STOCKS FELL FOR THE SECOND day yesterday as investors fretted over prospects of higher interest rates and talk of heavy selling by government financial institutions.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index fell 22.65 points, or 1.1 percent, to 2,099.26, adding to its 1.2-percent loss Tuesday.

All subindexes retreated. Decliners led gainers 58 to 23, while 56 stocks were unchanged.

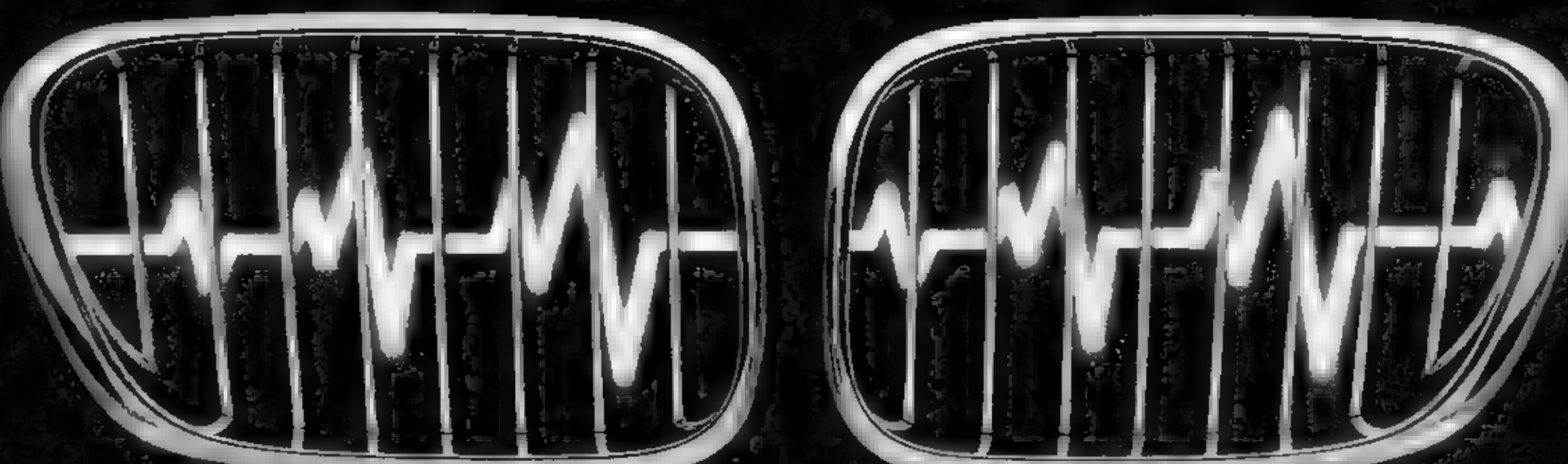
Ayala Land contributed to the decline, falling 4.7 percent to P10.25, possibly on concern over the adverse impact that high interest rates may have on the country's biggest property group in asset terms, analysts said.

Globe Telecom fell 3 percent to P615 on continued profit-taking. Petron lost 1.1 percent to end at P4.45 on concern over its 2005 earnings results, which have yet to be released.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. recovered after a weak showing for most of

**STOCKS/B2**

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## I could right a book

## BREAKTIME



Conrado R. Banal III

TO THE MILLIONS UPON MILLIONS OF working class members of the government-managed pension funds SSS and GSIS:

Just so you know what is happening to your P20-billion "investment" in Equitable PCI Bank, the Go family—based on reports that did not come out in this newspaper—is making a comeback.

Before the Go family sold their shares in EPCIB to the SM group of 81-year-old mall operator Henry Sy, and before the SM group showed its real intent to take over the bank without spending another centavo, the Go family controlled EPCIB.

The beauty of it was, the Go family only owned 24 percent of the bank, while the GSIS-SSS had more than 40 percent.

The same family, reportedly, now wants the Supreme Court to rule that the family should get 10 of the 15 board seats of the bank.

Again, that's the same family that already sold out to the SM group. All their nominees to the board subsequently resigned, yet they still want the 10 board seats!

\*\*\*

AS background, during the fight for control of the EPCIB board last year, the Go family asked the Supreme Court to rule that theirs was the legitimate board.

There were two boards at that time, with the Go family dominating one, and the coalition of GSIS-SSS-Trans Middle East enjoying the majority in the other.

As I said, in that Go family version of the board, their nominees already RESIGNED.

But all of a sudden, somebody is now nagging the Supreme Court to rule that the Go family should get those 10 board seats.

What is the significance of the report (not in this newspaper) on the ongoing bid of the SM

group to take over the bank for a song? (Okay, the question actually should be, how does it affect the interest of the millions of members of SSS and GSIS?)

The Go family version of the board had only four nominees from the pension funds GSIS and SSS. Since the Go family nominees resigned, the pension funds got seven board seats. In short, the SM group does not control the EPCIB board. This is not good for the group's plans to take over the bank at no additional cost.

Logically, since the SM group bought the interest of the Go family in the bank, the SM group takes those 10 board seats. Thus today, the SM group takes over the board. Tomorrow, who knows, maybe the whole bank.

IN my book, sure, if the Supreme Court rules that the nominees of the Go family, despite their resignation, should get the 10 board seats, the SM group should fill them.

I think it's just right.

In the same manner, the SM group should also answer for the missing P16 billion from the bank. Again, that's BILLION, with a "B"—okay!

The Go family, who sold out to the SM group, was supposed to put in P16 billion when they and the pension funds bought the then PCI Bank from the Lopez and the Gokongwei groups.

The pension funds put in their P16 billion, but the Go family did not. Yet, the Lopez and the Gokongwei groups got their P32 billion. So where did the money come from?

Based on EPCIB financial statements, the cash to pay for the P16-billion share of the Go family came from the bank itself.

In other words, the bank used some P16 billion of its own funds to cover for the Go family—which is, of course, now the SM group!

The P16 billion should be earning a lot of money for the bank and, consequently, its stockholders—such as the millions of working class members of the SSS and the GSIS.

In my book, since the SM group bought the interest of the Go family, the SM group should now cover for the P16 billion in bank funds that the Go family used. It's just right.

UNFORTUNATELY for us, SSS boss Cora de la Paz seems to have sold us, members of the SSS, down the river to the SM group.

De la Paz has been in favor of the SM group takeover of EPCIB, even if people in her own organization (the SSS, all right, and not SM group) think it is... well, "disadvantageous."

Several months ago, you see, we found out that the Go family cheated the SSS and the GSIS in their purchase of PCIIB from the Gokongwei and the Lopez groups.

Immediately, our hero De la Paz, who claims to be a topnotch accountant-auditor, volunteered to audit the bank to find out the whole story behind the missing P16-billion.

Up to today, so many months later, we have yet to hear from De la Paz about her findings. Just where exactly is that P16 billion, we still do not know.

But in my book, the most damning of De la Paz's sins to the SSS members is that she did not comment on the missing P16 billion, even if she has been in the EPCIB board for more than three years.

Oh, by the way, De la Paz also sits on the board of a subsidiary of the bank called Equitable Card Network. Our sources said that the company has more than a billion pesos in so-called "float."

In accounting parlance, it means that nobody knows where the money went.

And here we are, singing praises to the newfound interest in "corporate governance."

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## Robinsons Land Bares Plans on Manila Gas Property

Robinsons Land Corp. (RLC), one of the country's leading property developers signed today with Manila Gas Corporation the purchase contract for the acquisition of the 4-hectare Manila Gas Property situated along Ortigas Road, Manila. RLC paid P573 million.

The sprawling Manila Gas property was won by RLC in a government bidding that was conducted last October 2005 wherein it edged out Ayala Land's Community Innovations, Inc.

The acquisition aims to add valuable land inventory for the highly diversified property giant.

The Gokongwei-owned company said RLC plans to fully maximize the value of the Manila Gas property by developing a mixed-use type development composed of a mall and upscale residential townhouses.

According to Danilo R. Ignacio, RLC-HRBD General Manager, "Our 888 Residences is an upscale townhouse residential development. We plan to develop a big portion of the premium property into upscale townhouses composed of 3 to 4-bedrooms with price ranging from P6.5 million and up. Our main market will be the Pil-Chinese market residing in the Chinatown Area."

He adds, "Our newest upscale development and design fully reflects the discerning taste of our target clientele. Our 888 Residences is a fitting name for a premium address designed for the privileged few."

"We have completed the overall master plan and we aim to launch this upscale property around April this year," Ignacio said.

Our 888 Residences' strategic location of being 2 kilometers or less than 10 minutes away from the Bonifacio area offers a refreshing alternative for

upscale living to Pil-Chinese. He said, "As Chinatown is getting more congested, Our 888 Residences will help address the growing needs of Pil-Chinese now looking for additional living space or have plans of investing in nearby residential properties for their growing families."

Adding comfort is its close proximity to nearby schools like St. Peters, St. Jude, Chuang Kai Shok, Uno, Malayat High School of Sciences, St. Stephen, UST, San Beda and much more.

"Our 888 Residences proximity to the Robinsons Mall, commercial establishments, schools and medical institutions will afford residents easy and safer access to basic needs," Ignacio disclosed.

For the Mall, RLC said plans are still underway as the company is carefully reviewing the ideal retail mix for the commercial portion of the mixed used development.

It is interesting to note that Robinsons Land's newest upscale property directly competes with Ayala's Celadon Property in San Lazaro for the Pil-Chinese market.

Recently, RLC also bought the 9.3-hectare Jardine Davies property at Merville that the giant developer envisioned to be a mixed used development that will be composed of several residential thematic enclaves. It is located between Bicutan and Nichols interchange.

Robinsons Land Corporation is the real-estate arm of JG Summit Holdings, Inc. (JGSHI), one of the country's largest conglomerates with diverse interests in branded consumers foods, agro-industrial and commodity food products, textile, telecommunication, petrochemicals, air transportation and financial services.

ADTV

## BUSINESS

## ROUND-UP

## Gov't, ADB, WB discuss new loan scheme

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY IS IN TALKS with the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on the adoption of a new loan scheme that will do away with the government guarantee.

NEDA Director General Romulo Neri said the proposed scheme would ease the government's fiscal burden as implementing agencies would now be responsible for the payment of their own loans taken out for projects and programs funded by official development assistance (ODA).

Thus, the national government would no longer have to allocate a separate budget for payment of ODA loans.

Neri said the World Bank and the ADB have not yet entered into a similar loan payment plan with other countries.

"The Philippines would be the first and the most ready to do it," Neri said.

He said the World Bank and the ADB are considering whether the proposed loan-payment scheme could be adopted this year.

The government intends to borrow about \$900 million worth of ODA to help plug the budget deficit and pay maturing foreign obligations. The World Bank, ADB and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) are the Philippines' biggest ODA providers. *Michelle V. Remo*

## LBP sets aside P1B for Mindanao projects

THE LAND Bank of the Philippines has set aside P1 billion to support agriculture projects in Mindanao.

LBP plans to finance contract-growing projects of farmers' cooperatives that supplies fresh pineapples to Dole Philippines Inc., cavendish bananas for company Uni Frutti Inc. and the palm oil production of Agumil Philippines Inc. in Agusan.

"We may lend out P300 to P400 million for these farmers' cooperatives because Dole is even providing a repayment guarantee for 25 percent of the loan of these growers-suppliers," said Wilfredo C. Maldia, LBP first vice president and head of the Mindanao Branches Group. In an interview with the Inquirer.

Maldia said that in the last two years, LBP granted these contract suppliers of Dole Philippines with a loan of P350 million.

Suppliers of exporter of cavendish bananas Uni Frutti Inc. based in Davao may also obtain some P400 million in production loans from the LBP.

"This is an increase from the P50 million we have provided cooperatives engaged in banana production last year," he added.

Agumil Philippines Inc., which is a joint venture between Filipino and Malaysian investors engaged in the planting and processing of palm oil in Agusan, plans to borrow P100 million from the bank.

"If there is a need to establish a post-harvest facility such as dryers and production warehouses, these could also be provided as part of the loans to be extended by the bank," Maldia said. *Christine A. Gaylcan*

## PPA sets P2-B capex for 2006

THE PHILIPPINE Ports Authority will spend as much as P2 billion this year to upgrade the country's seaports, especially those involved in roll-on, roll-off and provincial operations.

PPA executive assistant Raul Santos said the P2 billion to be allocated for capital expenditures this year would be sourced from "internally generated funds," even as he raised the possibility of getting additional funding from the Asian Development Bank and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation for PPA's development thrust.

At the same time, the PPA reiterated that the local port facilities are off limits to foreigners, as provided under the Constitution.

In a statement, PPA general manager Oscar M. Sevilla said that the restriction on foreign investment was laid down in the Public Service Act which provides that, "Ownership, operations, and management or control of ports and docks in the Philippines constitutes 'public service'."

"To this end, the requirement is that the bidder or proposed operator must be a citizen of the Philippines or a corporation, partnership, association or joint-stock company constituted and organized under the laws of the Philippines," he said.

Sixty percent of the port operator's paid up capital must be owned by a citizen of the Philippines, he said.

Sevilla made the statement "to address the apprehensions and issues raised relative to foreign investment in ports as a result of the privatization thrust" of the PPA. *Daxin L. Lucas*

## Strengthening . . .

From page B1

be out of business should the peso continue to strengthen below the 50-to-a-dollar mark.

The government should help the export sector maintain competitiveness to ensure the economy is on track to meet its growth targets, he said.

Neri said an intervention by the BSP by purchasing dollars in the spot market would even help increase the country's gross international reserves (GIR). The downside, however, would be a buildup of peso liquidity that can create inflationary pressures.

Economists from the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) earlier warned against letting the peso to strengthen further.

Victor Abota and Emilio Antonio, economics professors from the UA&P suggested that the central bank intervene to bring the peso back to the 55-to-a-dollar level. They said if there was a practical way to achieve economic growth, that should be by boosting the export sector.

The economists warned that growth of the export sector, which already showed a substantial decline last year, would further be pulled down this year if the peso's strengthening would not be arrested.

Exports grew only 3.9 percent last year compared with the 10-percent growth target in 2004, exports grew almost 10 percent.

Yesterday, the peso slid from a three-and-a-half year peak to close at its intraday low of 51.42:\$1 as traders locked in gains after the local currency surged into the 50:\$1 territory Tuesday.

Currency traders said the BSP which heavily bought dollars to stem the peso's strong ascent only the previous day, turned into a dollar seller yesterday in defense of the local currency.

After hitting a high of 50.88 against the greenback Tuesday, the peso opened weak at 51.20, but a high of 51.17 and finished at the day's low of 51.42.

The peso thus lost 36 centavos against the dollar from Tuesday's closing of 51.06:\$1. Volume traded amounted to \$613.5 million.

As the dollar had not fallen below \$1 for a long time, these levels created demand from corporations with dollar requirements. They took advantage of the peso's stronger purchasing power to load up dollars for future importation or debt servicing requirements.

## Stocks fall . . .

From page B1

the session as bargain hunters stepped in, rising 0.3 percent to P1,830.

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2006

## BUSINESS

B3

## AEV obtains P2.2B in loans

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE  
(As of March 8, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
AsianTrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	35.5	36.5	35.5	35.5	1,810,600
Cebu Banking Corp.	69.5	69.5	59	59	2,617,200
Citystate Savings Bank	670	675	670	675	1,380
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	15	19	19	19	500
Equitable PCI Banking Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.4	0.41	20,870,000
International Exch. Bank	32	53	61	63	469,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	238	255	25	25	12,000
Philippine National Bank	36	36	35	35.5	740,500
Pills Savings Bank	31	31	31	31	16,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.75	3,400
Security Bank Corp.	37	37	37	37	215,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	4,100
<b>OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS</b>					
Banknote Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.75	0.75	110,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	3270	3270	3270	3270	590
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	100,000
Valuage Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.76	0.76	1,220,000
<b>INDUSTRIAL</b>					
First Gas Corp.	44.5	45	44.5	45	933,800
First Phil Hedges Corp.	42	42.5	42	42.5	151,500
Manila Electric Co. A	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	5,200
Manila Electric Co. B	19.5	19.75	19.25	19.5	1,196,500
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.3	2,284,000
Petron Corp.	4.45	4.5	4.35	4.45	8,692,000
East Asia Power Reg. Corp.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	300,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	36,000
<b>FOOD, BEVERAGE &amp; TOBACCO</b>					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6	262,000
Centra Phil Miguel Inc.	19.5	19.5	19.25	19.25	20,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35	35	33.5	34.5	609,200
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	360,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	20,000
San Miguel Corp. A	61.5	61.5	61	61.5	56,300
San Miguel Corp. B	81	81	78.5	80	81,200
Universal Robina Corp.	17.5	17.75	17.5	17.75	377,800
Warlich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	530,000
<b>CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE &amp; ALLIED SERVICES</b>					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.29	950,000
Engineering Equit. Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.2	1.22	376,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.1	4.15	4.1	4.15	409,000
<b>CHEMICALS</b>					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	1,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	20,000
Interphil Vinyl Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	170,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	12,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	5,561,600
Stenki Manufacturing	0.74	0.76	0.63	0.68	5,000,000
<b>HOLDING FIRMS</b>					
Abacus Con. Res. & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	5,000,000
Avala Corp.	340	340	330	325	99,080
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	250,000
Autoliv Equity Ventures	5	5.5	5.5	5.2	4,005,000
Ati, Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	36,600,000
A. Soriano Corp.	246	246	245	246	895,000
APC Group Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	10,000
Atcorn Gold Reg. Corp.	0.0055	0	0.0055	0.0055	10,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.86	0.87	1,120,000
ATI Holdings Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	2,000
Bachdhan Cons. Indus Inc.	0.86	0.85	0.86	0.85	45,000
Genpres Holdings Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.94	0.95	4,370,000
DiviC Holdings Inc.	3.65	3.6	3.05	3.1	60,000
Filinvest Corp.	3.02	2.04	2.02	2.04	276,000
Hous. of Investments, Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	190,000
JG Summit Holdings Inc.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	875,000
Medico Holdings Corp.	0.25	0.29	0.25	0.27	3,480,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.15	40,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.38	0.36	0.28	0.3	610,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	10,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.245	0.248	0.24	0.24	50,000
Primco Media Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	10,000
Smart Group Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	700,000
Singophil Corp.	6.13	6.3	6.13	6.3	2,990,000
SIM Investments Corp.	220	223	216	218	729,580
Sedarii Resources Corp.	0.39	0.41	0.39	0.41	70,000
United Res. & Holdings Co.	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	1,000,000
Weltex Industries Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	1,850,000
<b>PROPERTY</b>					
Acadia Land Inc.	10.75	10.75	10	10.25	9,588,900
Academy Properties Inc.	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	120,000
Bella Corp.	0.96	0.97	0.95	0.97	2,200,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.23	1,730,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.74	1.78	1.7	1.75	2,290,000
Cebu Prop. Vant B	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	50,000
Cebu Bay Corp.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	500,000
CB2 Reality Developers Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.21	440,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.44	0.45	0.44	0.45	3,710,000
Ever-Glorious Resources	0.025	0.025	0.023	0.025	2,100,000
Florinwest Land Inc.	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.18	2,356,000
Kook Phil. Properties	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.205	1,880,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,000,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.015	0.016	0.016	0.016	300,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.42	7,019,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	3,578,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.4	0.43	24,900,000
Reliance, Jard. Corp.	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.6	10,000
Phil. Realty and Holdings	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	1,178,000
SM Development Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	33,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.7	13,416,000
Univide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	650,000
<b>SERVICE</b>					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	8,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.88	0.9	0.88	0.9	730,000
Global Telecom Inc.	840	840	810	815	35,090
Philippine Tel. Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.1	3.1	402,000
Phil. Long Dist. Co.	1805	1830	1800	1830	146,640
<b>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY</b>					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.85	0.85	4,250,000
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	21,000,000
Ionics Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	10,000
Island Info. and Tech. Inc.	0.047	0.048	0.047	0.048	4,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.03	0.05	0.048	0.048	4,400,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	20,000
Phenix Corp.	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.026	45,000,000
<b>TRANSPORTATION SERVICES</b>					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.95	1.95	1.95	1.95	20,000
Int'l Container Termn. Sv.	12	12.25	12	12.25	1,760,700
Kapell Phils. Marine Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	100,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.3	1.38	1.3	1.38	100,000
Asiatel Phils. Hotel Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Lasagna & Ristori Corp.	1.38	1.78	1.72	1.74	1,503,000
Manila					

# Manila Memorial Park

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Pineda Agency

### Top Unit Managers



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Cuevas Agency



Danilo M. Reyes  
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Melissa M. Yaneza  
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(+) Mercedes G. Mijares  
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Panopio Unit  
Panopio Agency



Miriam Dianto  
Dianto Unit  
Panopio Agency



Jimbee Marso Yu  
Yu Unit  
Cuevas Agency



Melissa Yaneza  
Yaneza Unit  
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Julie G. Reyes  
Reyes Unit  
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Tzu Unit  
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Lirio Unit  
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Merhan Unit  
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Macabeo Unit  
Macabeo Agency



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Dumlao Unit  
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Noemi Valdez  
Songalong Unit  
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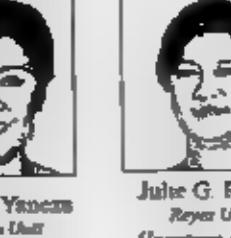
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Dianto Unit  
Panopio Agency



Jimbee Marso Yu  
Yu Unit  
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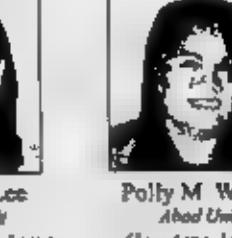
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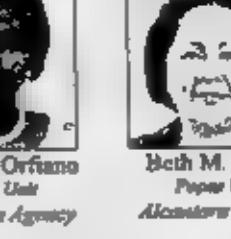
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Abad Unit  
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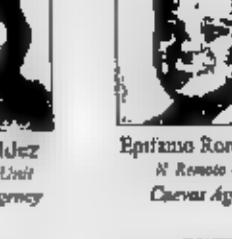
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N. Remota Unit  
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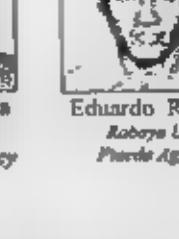
Nieves Rodriguez  
Gutierrez Unit  
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Yaneza Unit  
Alcantara Agency



Neddy Ravilla  
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Alcantara Agency



Eduardo Rabaya  
Reyes Unit  
Panopio Agency



Cristina G. Reyes  
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Michelle Alcantara  
Sarmiento Unit  
Legisim Agency



Elizabeth Ng  
Panopio Unit  
Panopio Agency



Ramil Orfano  
Ordoñez Unit  
Ordoñez/Toyon Agency



Romeo Gacutan  
Alfaro Unit  
Gacutan Agency



Julian Lapuz  
Lapuz Unit  
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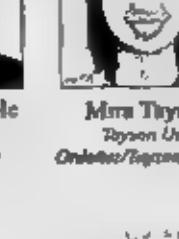
Justina Capiles  
Reyes Unit  
Alcantara Agency



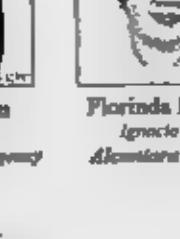
Ronaldo Tolentino  
Alcantara Unit  
Salmon Agency



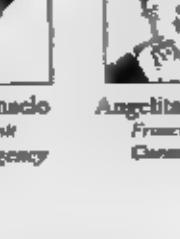
Emmanuel Itable  
Itable Unit  
Macabao Agency



Mira Thyson  
Ordoñez/Toyon Agency



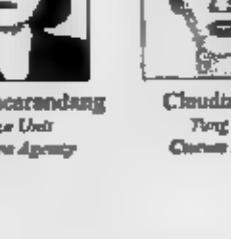
Florinda Ignacio  
Ignacio Unit  
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Angelita Francisco  
Francisco Unit  
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Yaneza Unit  
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Anchis Unit  
Alcantara Agency





Republic of the Philippines  
COMMISSION ON AUDIT  
Regional Office No. X  
Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City 9000  
2 (088) 858-7422, (088) 858-1458  
E. coar10@wetsprinter.net

## BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Procurement of IT Equipments and other PPE items

1 The Commission on Audit, Region X, intends to apply the sum of Four Million Nine Hundred Forty-Seven Thousand Pesos (P4,047,000.00) broken down as follows:

ITEM	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	LOT	QUANTITY	UNIT	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
Lot I	67 units COMPUTERS. Branded CPU compatible with 32-bit-64bit simultaneously, 1.8 GHz Capable to run on multiple platforms 1 MB cache level 2 On-board graphics controller 512 MB Memory, dual memory channel, 8 x 6.4 Gbps hypertransport link With built-in Firewire ports (IEEE1394) 80 GB Serial ATA, 7200 rpm DVD ROM Drive 15" color monitor Keyboard & mouse with pad AVR 500W 3 yrs warranty		67	unit	PHP 3,619,000.00	
	1 unit COMPUTER. Branded CPU compatible with 32-bit-64bit simultaneously, 1.8 GHz Capable to run on multiple platforms 1 MB cache level 2 On-board graphics controller 1 GB Memory, dual memory channel, 8 x 6.4 Gbps hypertransport link With built-in Firewire ports (IEEE1394) 80 GB Serial ATA, 7200 rpm DVD ROM Drive 15" color monitor Keyboard & mouse with pad AVR 500W 3 yrs warranty		1	unit	PHP 3,619,000.00	
	30 units UNINTERRUPTED POWER SUPPLY 850 VA (410W)		30	unit	PHP 201,000.00	
	20 units COMPUTER TABLE. Steel Frame, SIGMA		20	unit	PHP 60,000.00	
	14 units PRINTERS. Hp Laser Jet Print Speed up to 18ppm resolution up to 1200 x 1200 dpi Memory: 64MB		14	unit	PHP 200,000.00	
	3 units LAPTOP COMPUTERS. Branded Camera slot (core dual processor) Processor Speed: 2.0 GHz/533 MHz FSB, 2-MB L2 cache RAM DDR2 SDRAM 512 MB Floppy Drive 1.44 MB CD Drive, CR-RW/DVD-RW Combo Drive Hard Disk Drive 80 GB 6400 rpm Serial ATA NIC 10/100 Mbps Keyboard and Mouse Modem RJ-11 Modem Audio Port OEM Windows XP Professional		3	unit	PHP 252,000.00	
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being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Procurement of IT Equipments and other PPE items. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

2 Interested bidders may obtain a complete set of Bidding Documents starting March 13 to 18, 2006 upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) from the SAC Secretariat, c/o RCD Hesellinda A. Valenciano, 2F (088) 858-7422, CDA Regional Office No. X, Cagayan de Oro City

3 The Commission on Audit will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on March 17, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at CDA Conference Room, CDA Regional Office No. X, Cagayan de Oro City

4 Deadline for submission of Bids shall be on March 20, 2006, at 2:00 p.m. at CDA Regional Office No. X, Cagayan de Oro City. Immediately after the deadline, bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the above address.

5 The Commission on Audit reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) FELIX P. ALBINDA  
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee  
E-mail: fpalbinda@yahoo.com

ITDI-March 9, 15, 2006

## OBITUARIES

"I Tobit, have walked all the days of my life on the paths of truth and righteousness. I performed many charitable works for my kinmen and my peoples.."

Tobit 1:3

## WINSTON CABRERA MUNGCAL

National Head, Gawad Kalinga Tatag Program  
President, Parish Pastoral Council, Sanctuary de San Pedro Bautista  
Former Governance Team Member, West B Sector, Couples for Christ  
PPD, PFN, PGK, Knights of Columbus, Council 6116

In Peace and Grace joined our Lord Father and his parents  
**GREGORIO & FELICIDAD** and his brother **PEY**  
on March 7, 2006 at the age of 53.



His bereaved wife PRECY; children PIA, PJ and his future daughter-in-law ABI; brothers and sisters BOY & MENCHU, ALEX & BELEN, JUN & CONNIE, GIRLIE, DULCE & JEREMY LACSON and RUBY; nephews, nieces, relatives and friends, request the pious reader to join them in prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Sanctuary de San Pedro Bautista Parish, 69 San Pedro Bautista St., San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, March 14, 2006 at the  
Holy Cross Memorial Park after the 8:30 A.M. requiem MASS.

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## Death Notices

Dr. Stephen G. Reyes

Died on March 1, 2006

His body lies at St. Therese of Child Jesus Chapel,  
UP College, Los Baños, Laguna  
Interment will be on March 12 at Los Baños  
Memorial Cemetery

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## FLEET MANAGEMENT SERVICES

PHILIPPINES, INC.

Suite 500, Puso ng Maynila Building  
1046 A. Mabini Street cor U N. Avenue  
Ermita, Manila

## AFFIDAVIT OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Fleet Management Services Philippines, Inc. Stock Certificate Nos. 1 and 7 for 7,497 and 1,250 shares respectively, in the name of Atty. A.B.F. Gaviola Jr.; 8 for 1,250 shares in the name of Ms. Ma. Corazon D. Cruz and 9 for 1 share in the name of Ms. Jeannette T. Tumba were reported lost, per their affidavits on file

Anyone who may have claims against the above may notify the office.

If no claims are presented within 1 year from the last date of publication, replacement certificates therefor will be issued

Manila, February 16, 2006

(Sgd.) MARIE JOSEPHINE C. SUAREZ  
Corporate Secretary

FMT-Affid. 9, 14 &amp; 21, 2006

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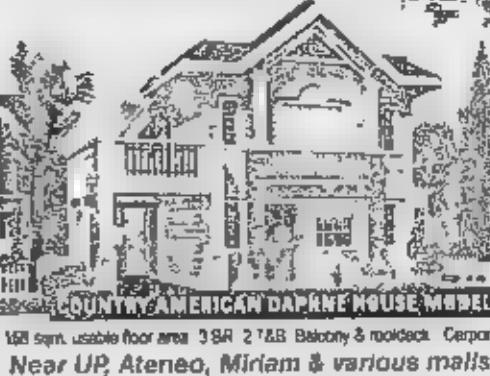
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## OBITUARIES

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## SANTIAGO I. MACARAEG

November 3, 1936 – March 7, 2006  
at the age of 69.His body lies in state at HOLY TRINITY (Premier  
Chapel) located at A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque  
CityInterment will be on March 11, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.  
at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City

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NAME OF DECEASED	CHAPEL	DATE & TIME	PLACE
Maria Hildega Dacumos	Chapel C-12, Q.C.	03/09/06 9:00 a.m.	Paz Crematory
Atty. Antonio Z. Matugo	Chapel J-2, Q.C.	03/09/06 8:00 a.m.	Holy Cross Mem. Park
Leontina E. Casas	Chapel B-5, Q.C.	03/10/06 9:00 a.m.	Paz Crematory

## CLASSIFIEDS

More Classified Ads on  
pages A2, A8, A9, A10, B2 & B7.

# UAE lifts ban on RP processed meat exports

## Halal certifying body accredited

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, CONSIDERED the gateway to the multi-billion dollar halal food market of the Middle East, has lifted the ban on Philippine processed meat and chicken products after authorities accredited a local halal certification body that would determine whether shipments are fit for the Middle East market.

Abdul Rahman RT Linzag, president of the Islamic Da'wah Council of the Philippines (IDCP), said his group was deemed competent to certify local products as halal following a visit of UAE food officials to the Philippines in mid-2005.

Halal is an Arabic word that means "permissible" and, in relation to consumables, refers to products that Muslims are allowed to use, eat and drink.

The visit of the UAE mission—headed by the Assistant Secretary General of the UAE General Secretariat of Municipalities, the executive body that unites the different emirates, was aimed at assessing the possibility of resuming the purchase of halal food products from the Philippines.

Two years ago, the UAE had stopped the entry of an undetermined volume of Philippine-made products due to the absence of

proper certification that the products were prepared following Islamic requirements.

Linzag said the UAE team was expected to return to the Philippines to certify poultry processing facilities in Laguna, Bulacan and other parts of the country.

"This is the essence of halal certification—the authorities want to make sure that everything used in and done to the products are halal—from the inputs used to the preparation and packaging of the products," Linzag explained.

"The ban (on local animal-based products) meant a significant loss for our export industry," Linzag said.

The UAE, with its busy ports and active trading, accounts for a substantial portion of the \$15-billion-a-year global halal food market.

Philippine shipments first got involved in a controversy in the UAE when food authorities seized cargoes of Philippine-made 'halal' products in March 2004.

Linzag said the fiasco was a result of producers not following the strict rules of halal production.

So far, IDCP is the only halal-certifying body in the country recognized by concerned international agencies such as the Jakarta-based World Halal Council.

## New terminal at DMIA planned

By Daxim L. Lucas

A CONSORTIUM COMPOSED OF THE AMA Group of Companies and the government of the Kingdom of Bahrain has unveiled plans to build a passenger terminal at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) in Pampanga under the build-operate-transfer scheme.

In a statement, AMA Group vice president Juanito G. Ramos Jr. said the Bahrain government was "extremely interested to invest in the building of a modern passenger terminal and cargo facility" in Clark.

The plan to further develop DMIA was "ope

of the most significant developments" of the recently held bilateral air consultations between the Philippines and Bahrain.

"The realization of this project would drastically alleviate air traffic and congestion at the Clark airport as it reaches capacity," Ramos said.

Before the air talks started, officials of Clark Development Corp. (CDC) and Clark International Airport Corp., which owns and operates the airport, hosted a tour for the visiting delegation led by Bahrain Undersecretary for Civil Aviation Affairs Abdulrahman Mohamed Al Gaoud and top officials of Gulf Air, the flag carrier airline of Bahrain.

As the sector grows to greater heights, large call center companies are expanding its reach across the nation, seeking more competitive labor costs, and cheaper infrastructure and operational expenses. Southern Philippines is targeted as the next destination of growth.

### Is Mindanao ready?

In its recent report, the Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT) projected that the call center sector would have to employ 388,000 agents to meet client needs in 2010. In order to deliver this, call centers should not limit their Mindanao activities on recruitment for relocation purposes alone. Setting base is inevitable considering the many perks offered by Mindanao cities—the availability of cheaper and reliable power and communication infrastructure, less expensive cost of living, good incentives for IT firms and numerous vendor support.

Mindanao is also opening itself to

### MINDANAO WORLD

Joji Ilagan-Bian

advancement as it targets cyberservices to be the industry that will not only boost the economy, but will also secure its people from leaving home. The redistribution of wealth, the return of talents, increased commercial activity and more investments from other sectors are positive effects of call center presence in the provinces.

Local communities and its leaders recognize Mindanao's potentials in providing call center needs in the near future. This sparked interests from various groups and business organizations to cooperate and unify in order to make Mindanao cities an attractive and suitable locations for the industry's growth.

### Next IT Hub

The widespread investment promotion campaign staged by various Mindanao stakeholders captured the interest of some of the well-known call centers and prompted them to visit major Mindanao cities for possible expansion. So far, Cagayan de Oro and Davao City attracted four call center companies. My very own company, Jogi Ilagan Foundation Inc., will be operating a state-of-the-art training academy for call center agents and personnel in partnership with John R. Kennedy

Foundation, and a call center. The academy will open in April and the call center, in June this year. The training center will help ensure the availability of skilled manpower to serve the needs of IT investors and BPOs that intend to locate their businesses in Davao and nearby cities like Gen. Santos.

Mindanao recognizes its capacity to deliver investor requirements in setting up call center operations. We produce competent professionals with excellent reasoning skills, English communication and computer skills, and workers flexible in various work environments. And of course, Mindanaoans are famous for being friendly, courteous and industrious individuals—a plus point in this line of work.

Mindanao, however, has its own challenges and limitations. For one, not all cities have IT parks and zones, and this discourages IT investors who seek additional incentives that an IT park/zone could offer and flexible requirements. Most of the cities are yet to follow Cagayan de Oro's Pueblo de Oro IT Park, the first of its kind that houses an international call center.

There is no reason why Davao and Cagayan and the rest of Mindanao cannot become the IT hub for the Southern part of the country and of the East Asian region.

After all, everything else is in place—competent manpower and adequate communications and transportation infrastructures.

(Jogi Ilagan-Bian is an advocate for Mindanao; chair of the Mindanao TVEI and Mindanao representative to Export Development Council. E-mail comments to [jojibian2@yahoo.com](mailto:jojibian2@yahoo.com))



## Republic of the Philippines OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN Ombudsman Building, Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

### OFFICE ORDER NO. 05-303

Series of 2005

TO ALL CONCERNED

SUBJECT CUSTOMIZED CODE OF CONDUCT FOR OFF.CIA, B AND EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN INVOLVED IN THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS

DATE OCTOBER 20, 2005

#### I. PURPOSE

Procurement involves disbursement of public funds or funds placed under its official custody and the basic rule is that such funds should be properly spent by the Office. If the procurement is well managed by those involved in the procurement process, then, corruption and wastage of resources are avoided.

The Office of the Ombudsman is committed to the principle of good governance and it has exerted efforts to adhere to the principle of transparency, accountability, equity, efficiency, competitiveness and economy in the conduct of its procurement of Goods (all items, supplies, materials, equipment and general services) and Consulting Services and in contracting Infrastructure Projects. To ensure the integrity of the procurement process in the Office, it is essential to establish a customized Code of Conduct for all its officials and employees involved in the procurement process.

#### II. SCOPE

This customized Code of Conduct shall apply to all officials and employees of the Office who are involved in the procurement process, namely: the BAC, the TWG, the TIG, the BAC secretariat, the PMS / GSD, the FMS, the Accounting Division, Planning and Budget Division, the Cashiering Unit, the Officials who are signatories to the Contracts / Agreements and the respective end-users.

#### III. POLICIES AND RULES

##### A. Definition of Terms

As used herein the term:

1.a Procurement – refers to the acquisition of Goods and Consulting Services and the contracting for Infrastructure Projects by the Office of the Ombudsman

1.b Goods – refer to all items, supplies, materials, equipment and general support services

1.c Consulting Services – refer to services for Infrastructure Projects and other types of projects or activities of Government requiring adequate external technical and professional expertise including advisory and review services, pre-investment or feasibility studies, design, construction, supervision, management and related services, and other technical services or special studies

1.d Infrastructure Projects / Civil Works – includes the construction, improvement, rehabilitation, demolition, repair, restoration or maintenance of roads and bridges, railways, airports, seaports, communication facilities, civil works components of information technology projects, irrigation, flood control and drainage, water supply, sanitation, sewerage & solid waste management systems, shore protection, energy & power and electrification facilities, national buildings, school buildings, hospital buildings and other related construction projects of the government

1.e Code – refers to the customized Code of Conduct for the Office of the Ombudsman BAC and the other Committees / Offices involved in procurement

1.f Office – refers to the Office of the Ombudsman

1.g Gift – refers to a thing disposed of gratuitously in favor of another, and shall include a simulated sale or a disposition onerous to the giver

1.h Benefit – refers to a right, privilege, entertainment, exemption or any other similar act of liberality in favor of another

1.i BAC Secretariat – refers to the members of the support staff to the BAC and Awards Committee and the custodians of the procurement records

1.j Suppliers / Contractors – refer to persons or group of persons, or entities that supply Goods and Consulting Services and contract for Infrastructure Projects

1.k BAC – Bids and Awards Committee

1.l TWG – Technical Working Group

1.m TIG – Technical Inspection Group

1.n PMS – Property Management Section

1.o GSD – General Services Division

1.p IRR-A – Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A

1.q COA – Commission on Audit

1.r NGO – Non-Government Organization

1.s PDS-BM – Procurement Service Department of Budget and Management

1.t FMS – Finance and Management Services

1.u End-user – refers to the officers and employees of the unit for which the Goods, Consulting Services and Infrastructure Projects are intended

1.v Signatories to the Contract – refers to the Officials who execute and sign the contract / agreement for the Office

#### Section 2. General Provisions

The Chairman and Members of the Ombudsman BAC, TWG, TIG, the BAC Secretariat, and the officials and employees of the PMS / GSD, FMS, Planning and Budget Division, Accounting Division, Cashiering Unit, and the signatories to the contract, while in the performance of their duties and responsibilities as such, shall

2.a Adhere strictly to the principles and provisions of laws and rules promoting transparency, accountability, equity, efficiency, professionalism, competitiveness and economy in procurement

2.b Strictly avoid all situations that may give rise or tend to give rise to situations of conflict of interests or suspicions of conflict of interests. Should a conflict of interest arise pursuant to Rule V of OMB Office Order Number 05-13 dated January 24, 2005, on the Norms of Behavior for Officials and Employees of the Office of the Ombudsman, it shall be the duty of the concerned official or employee to immediately disclose the same to his/her immediate supervisor and term mate the same, by way of a written declaration hereof. The written declaration on conflict of interest may be done periodically or for every contracting process

2.c Absolutely refrain from soliciting and/or accepting, directly or indirectly, gifts and benefits for themselves or for others, from the suppliers, contractors and/or consultants regardless of whether or not said suppliers, contractors and/or consultants are transacting business with the Office of the Ombudsman

2.d Absolutely refrain from accepting invitations or offers from suppliers, contractors and/or consultants or their representatives for meetings and conferences outside the Office

2.e Strictly refrain from having personal contacts or interactions with suppliers, contractors and/or consultants. The latter are not allowed to enter the office premises, unless necessary to transact official business in which case their stay shall not be longer than what is required to finish their official transaction

2.f Strictly adhere to the mandated time frames as provided for in Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations

2.g Refrain from unduly influencing or exerting, under pressure upon any member of the BAC or any officer or employee of the procuring entity or office to take a particular action which favors, or tends to favor a particular supplier, contractor and/or consultant

2.h Strictly refrain from inviting as guests and getting as ninongs, ninangs, sponsors or donors the suppliers / contractors and/or consultants transacting business with the Office to avoid closeness and familiarity as well as the perception that undue benefit and/or advantage is being given to the member concerned of the BAC, TWG, TIG, PMS/GSD, BAC Secretariat, FMS Planning and Budget Division, Accounting Division, Cashiering Unit, as well as signatories to the contract

2.i Strictly observe the norms of behavior enunciated under Office Order Number 05-13 dated January 24, 2005, particularly on the provisions relating to Conflict of Interests and Confidentiality of proceedings

#### Section 3. Specific Provisions

3.1 For the Bids and Awards Committee –

The BAC, in the performance of its duties and responsibilities, shall:

3.1.a Only have official contacts with suppliers, contractors and/or consultants whenever necessary during the pre-bid conference and opening of bids

3.1.b Refrain from entertaining procurement transactions/queries from suppliers, contractors and/or consultants except through the BAC Secretariat

3.1.c Attend the regular meetings of the BAC as scheduled

3.2 For the BAC Secretariat –

The BAC Secretariat, in the performance of its duties and responsibilities, shall:

3.2.a Only have official contacts with suppliers, contractors and/or consultants whenever necessary during the bidding process

3.2.b Prepare the necessary reports and proper recording of all procurement transactions to ensure accountability and transparency

3.2.c Be under the direct control, supervision and monitoring of the BAC

3.3 For the Technical Working Group –

The TWG, in the performance of its duties and responsibilities, shall:

3.3.a Only have official contacts with the concerned supplier, contractors and/or consultants whenever necessary during the pre-bid conference, the opening of bids, the evaluation and post qualification process, and before submission of the Evaluation Report

3.3.b Conduct ocular inspections of the suppliers, contractors and/or consultants' business offices, premises, warehouses, outlets, stores and factories unannounced. The date of ocular inspection and the team to conduct the ocular inspection shall be specified by and with authority from the BAC for monitoring purposes. In no case shall the TWG use other resources than that of the Office in the conduct of ocular inspection.

3.3.c Prepare a brief report for the BAC after every ocular inspection indicating the itinerary of travel and the expenses incurred. Claims for refund of expenses shall be properly documented and in compliance with the existing auditing and accounting rules and regulations

3.3.d Prepare the Technical Evaluation Report and submit the same to the BAC within the prescribed period pursuant to RA No. 9184 and its IRR-A

3.4 For the Technical Inspection Group –

The TIG, in the performance of its duties and responsibilities, shall:

3.4.a Only have official contact with the suppliers or contractors whenever necessary during the delivery and acceptance of the delivered goods or the evaluation of the performance of the general support services rendered to the office

3.4.b Conduct inspections of deliveries of goods and evaluation of general support services rendered to the Office by the suppliers or contractors.

3.4.c In the presence of the end-user property custodian, and PMS Officer; and

3.4.d By rotation on a per delivery and per evaluation bases

3.4.e Strictly comply with the Office specifications in the conduct of inspection of goods and the evaluation of the general support services rendered to the Office by the suppliers or contractors

3.5 For the Property Management Section / General Services Division – The PMS/GSD in the performance of their duties and responsibilities, shall:

3.5.a Only have official contact with the concerned suppliers, contractors and/or consultants whenever necessary prior to the preparation of the Purchase Orders (PO), the Job Orders (JO) or Contracts/Agreements, during the delivery of goods or general support services and during the preparation of documents for payment. The PMS/GSD shall, in case of sealed canvass, contact the suppliers or contractors whenever necessary if there is a need to get information on certain goods or general support services and in the conduct of market probe.

3.5.b Prepare reports and keep the records on procurement transactions pursuant to COA rules for submission to the Overall Deputy Ombudsman.

3.6 For the Finance and Management Services, the Planning and Budget Division, the Accounting Division and the Cashiering Unit –

The FMS, the Planning and Budget Division, the Accounting Division and the Cashiering Unit, in the

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We apologize for the hundreds of people who were not accommodated during the Go Negosyo Entrepreneurship Summit. The massive turnout was much more than we expected. With this remarkable success, let us continue to be our countrymen's source of courage and inspiration as they pursue their business ideas. Let us all focus our energies on entrepreneurship! To the more than 50,000 people who visited the Go Negosyo Entrepreneurship Expo, thank you and we hope we have inspired you and provided you with the information you will need to start your business.

See you in our upcoming events:

- Micro NeGOsyo Fair at the Philippine Army Gym, Fort Bonifacio from 31 March to 2 April 2006
- Agri NeGOsyo in October 2006\*
- OFW NeGOsyo in December 2006\*

\*Venue and date to be announced

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## MAG NEGOSYO NA!



Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship



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in a mall

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Editor Chelo Benal-Formoso

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## LIFESTYLE

## The joy of cooking with charcoal

I TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN BEING Filipino. As a race, we perhaps belong to a league all of our own. Indeed, we are a highly adaptable, resilient, ingenious and brilliant breed!

Take Pinoy inventor Rizal Obligar, an engineer whose invention in 1978 should have made headline news but didn't because he was way ahead of his time.

Decades after, with the surge in power and LPG costs, people are taking notice.

I made mention of Joy Charcoal Stove many moons ago when I first saw it at the Mandarin during the Chinese New Year fete. And to this day, people have not stopped asking me about what that charcoal stove was, what the best brand is, and if it is really well worth it.

Due to the clamor of the people, I am now doing a full feature on Joy, the best stove in its class in the country.

They have a brand-new model that is much improved. It now comes in bronze, with a pull-out ash tray for easy cleaning. Unlike other coal-fueled stoves, this one has a regulator to adjust heat from low, medium to high. It, too, has a barbecue pit option and a handle, making it so convenient to take with you anywhere, even to the beach this Holy Week!

We have three different coal stoves at home and compared to the other two, this one is the most economical: P5 worth of coal lasts an hour. So *bulalo* costs all of P30 to make, at six hours of cooking time and just one charcoal change! *Nilagang baka* at P15, with no charcoal change! Beat that?

It is also smokeless, making it worthy of a place in your kitchen! Besides, it is the only Pinoy stove that ever won international recognition!

So, is it all worth it? You bet! Call Raul and Joy Mendiola at 4542040, 0919-3775294, 0917-4674798 or 0920-8173236

I am a culinary arts student wondering if you have a source for cheaper chefs uniforms and clogs. I have asked around and they are quite costly.

More power to you and thanks in advance.

BERT P

You might want to try Crocs professional series clogs from Colorado!

I got myself a red pair and they are so comfortable! Though they feel kind of weird at first because they are too light, like you have jelly on your feet. It weighs six ounces. It is vented, so air passes through, keeping feet cool; it is slip-, odor- and bacteria-resistant. It is also easy to clean—just wipe or wash and bleach!

I am told that they are now used by those who stay on their feet for hours—doctors, nurses, chefs. If you ask me, they are wonderful for gardening, yachting and just about anything. They have a beach and a flip-flop series as well!

Chefs Garb Exchange Inc. is the authorized distributor of Crocs Footwear. They also make chefs jackets and toques at reasonable prices. Call Lex Adasa at 4282550.

## Traditional recipes

Heirloom recipes are by themselves little treasures. Through them, we keep the

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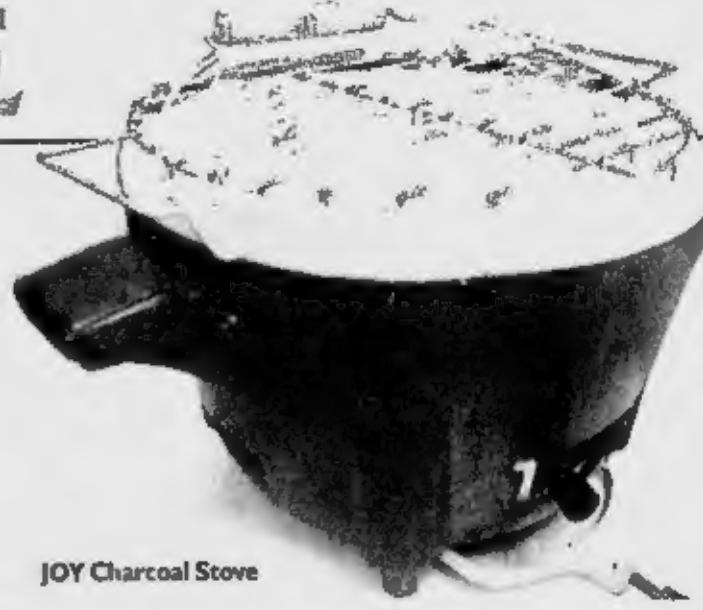


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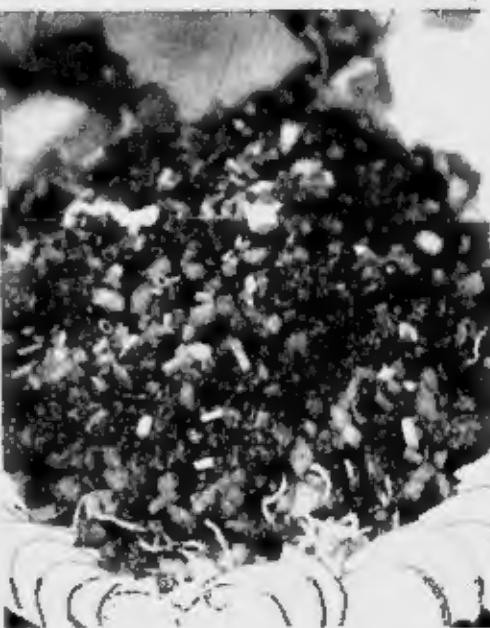
HEAVEN and Eggs Omelette



SUSHIYA sushi platter



TAKOYAKI Balls



HAP Chan's Minced Pork with lettuce

# Street food far from the madding traffic

Text by Linda B. Bolido  
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

**M**ARKET! MARKET! IS NOW SERVING a slice of Asia with a sprinkling of points beyond.

Whether you are a gourmet, a gourmand or simply someone wanting to experience other countries by savoring their distinctive cuisine, you can now get bites of Japan, Vietnam, Thailand, Korea, China, and a few other exotic places in just one destination—the new Street Market.

Though designed like a group of sidewalk eating places, the covered Street Market offers more comfort—you get to see the outdoors but are far away enough from the road to be spared the dust and the fumes. You don't get burned when the sun is out and don't get drenched when it rains. The air under the market roof is kept a little cooler than the actual temperature outside. Many of the eating places also have a few tables set up in enclosed, air-conditioned spaces.

Street Market complements the collection of eateries and stalls on the other side of the mall's

It's like Singapore's Newton. Square except it's nicely low-key, and offers not just filling meals but also flavorful snacks



SOO Ra Sang specializes in Korean dishes.



WOK Bo Asian Noodles



MARKET! Market! and Ayala Malls executives: Francis Roxas, Norie Ubalde, Miriam Katigbak, Rowena Tomeldan, Charmaine Bauzon, Cora Dizon and Cathy Bengzon

entrance—the distinctly Filipino Fiesta Market. Jie Panduk, dean of the Philippine School for Interior Design, hung colorful oriental-looking lanterns and lamps (made of resin rather than the traditional paper) and set up a Zen garden with water fountains to give the Asian corner an authentic look.

You don't have to leave Street Market in search of a filling meal or a simple but flavorful snack. Some establishments are also not found elsewhere or only have one or two other outlets outside of the market.

As of now, your choices of eating places include Hap Chan, Soo Ra Sang, Vietnam Food House, Icing's Cake and Coffee Shop, Wa No Fu, Ersao, Koay Teow, Asian Noodles, Yakitori, Ho Dduk, Hong Kong Street Food, Koji, Kindori, Takoyaki, Drink It, Sushiya and Heaven and Eggs.

You can buy snack items, chichiryo and others from DEC, an oriental convenience store; Trifpunkt, a German-Swiss delicatessen and store; Korokke Japanese Snacks; Thai Deli; Shanghai Fried Siopao; Poland Hopia; Lord Stow's Bakery; and Wang Mart.

And if you decide to check out Street Market any evening soon you get an additional treat—some of the country's top musicians are scheduled to perform weekends from 7 p.m. onwards at Market! Market!

Catch Mojofly on March 10; The Club, March 11; Sugarfree, March 17; Mayonnaise, March 18; Kamikaze, March 24; Itchyworms, March 25; Rivermaya, March 31; True Faith, April 1; Stonefree, April 7; and Kjwan, April 8.

Market! Market! at Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, is open 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Monday-Thursday; and 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday-Sunday.



SOO Ra Sang shabu-shabu

## Sunday family brunch buffet

**HOTEL PHILIPPINE PLAZA** presents All About Family Sunday Brunch at the Café Plaza Too and Poolside, complete with live entertainment and surprises like face painting, unicycling, clowns, balloon twister, and magic show, plus free use of the swimming pool during the day. The buffet spread includes kids' favorites such as mini pizzas, crispy fried chicken, chicken nuggets, hotdogs, burgers, sausages and marshmallow. Food stations will offer pasta, barbecue, cotton candy, dirty ice cream, chocolate fountain and popcorn. Adults can enjoy the free-flowing sparkling wine. Call Café Plaza Too at 5515555 local 1531, and the Poolside at local 1555.



ASIDE from a wide selection of pastries, the Hotel Philippine Plaza's buffet includes kids' favorites like mini pizzas, crispy fried chicken, hotdogs, burgers, and marshmallow.

offers Indian dishes until March 15.

**SUPER BOWL OF CHINA** is serving all graduates their choice of any of the restaurant's specialty noodle dishes for free until March 31. For a minimum purchase of P1,000 at any Super Bowl of China or Big Buddha restaurant, the graduate gets a free regular order of a noodle dish of his choice.

Opening on March 11 is Super Bowl SM Valenzuela.

**CROWNE PLAZA GALLERIA** presents "Szechuan Sizzles" until March 15 at the hotel's Xin Tian Di Restaurant. The restaurant's guest master chef from China, Li Chen Heng, showcases a taste of Szechuan such as Tea-flavored Smoked Duck with Chinese Bun, Spicy Dan Dan Noodles, Sautéed Lobster with Red Pepper and Deep-fried Fish in Five Spice Powder. Call 6337222 local 7240.

**DINING OUT** **MANILA** **Rotisserie** offers a graduation set menu consisting of Prawns Caesar Salad, Hats Off Onion Soup, Grilled Beef Tenderloin in Green Peppercorn Sauce with croquette potatoes, Caramelized Mango Chibousts with ice cream and pralines with a cup of brewed coffee or tea. Available for lunch or dinner for P1,350++ per person until March 31. Call 5261212 local 2505.

**INTERCONTINENTAL MANILA'S** Café Jeepney gives special treats to graduates. When partaking of lunch and dinner buffet with four or more persons, the graduate can choose between a free buffet meal for himself or a complimentary bottle of house wine for his group. At Prince Albert Rotisserie, graduates dining with a group of four or more guests will be entitled to either a free bottle of house wine or one round of non-alcoholic drinks for his group. Graduates must present their diplomas. Call 8159711 for reservations. The special offer is from March 17-April 9. Café Jeepney also

**SAKAE SUSHI** offers Power Lunch set meals, Monday to Saturday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Set meals include Tori Karaage, Unagi Kabayaki, Salmon Miso Nabe. Each entree is served with miso soup, gohan, salad, maguro sashimi, green tea and ice cream. Sakae Sushi is at The Fort, Crescent West Park, Global City. Call 8435452.

**DIAMOND HOTEL** invites you to celebrate your child's graduation at one of its restaurants. Palm Court Café offers sumptuous international buffets; Restaurant Le Bellevue, hearty Euro-continental specialties; and Yuraku, authentic Japanese cuisine. Cocktail of the month for these restaurants and Palm Court Bar and Sky Lounge Music Bar is Tropical Freeze, unique blend of citrus, arctic vodka, and curacao blue. It comes with "Miko the Graduate" for the price of P550++. Miko is the hotel's puppy mascot for the Year of the Dog. Call 5283000.

## The joy of cooking . . .

From page C1

essence of Pinoy food and ancient family traditions alive. "Potluck" is one of those little books that give big insights into a family that takes great pride in their heritage and their cooking traditions. A great read as well as a fantastic source of traditional recipes from bygone days (red eggs, sinanglay, tapa to kalamay 'hati'). For advance copies, call Anvil at 6373621 and 6375141.

Do you have a recipe for *inihaw na pusit* and *kinilaw*? Am planning to cook it for my husband's birthday.

NENITA

Wow! *Inihaw* and *kinilaw* with beer? Your husband will love you forever! Happy birthday to your hubby!

Here are some of the recipes from the book "Potluck." Exactly why you must get a copy!

**Seafood Kinilaw**

350 g fresh white fish fillet (la-pa-lapu)  
150 g blanched shrimps, squid or baby octopus  
½ red onion, thinly sliced  
½ cucumber, peeled and cut into thin round slices  
3 small tomatoes, yellow or red, halved  
1 ½ tbsp ginger, chopped fine  
2 tbsp scallions  
Sauce:  
1 tbsp calamansi

¼ c spiced native vinegar  
1/8 c coconut milk

Salt and pepper, to taste (You get the exact quantity of salt and pepper when you buy the book! Hahah! It's a joke!)

Cut seafood to bite-size pieces and mix with vegetables. Add sauce ingredients and mix well.

Let sit at least 15 minutes before serving. Do not pre-marinate the fish, it will destroy the flavor.

Garnish with chopped pork chicharon

**Mario Binaday's Inihaw na Pusit**

1 kg squid, *lumot*, cleaned

Marinade:  
½ c soy sauce  
½ c brown sugar  
½ c native vinegar  
3 cloves minced garlic  
¼ c crushed peppercorns

2-3 pcs *siling labuyo*, sliced  
½ c cooking oil (for basting)

Combine in a saucepan, bring to a boil. Cool.

Pour half the mixture to marinate squid. Reserve the rest for basting and as dipping sauce.

To the basting sauce, add ¼ c cooking oil. Grill for seven minutes, basting with sauce.

Serve with reserve sauce for dipping.

**My Gourmet Cucinera 3 class**, starts next week. Call 6335162 or 9289296 for schedules.

E-mail the author at [raspiras@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:raspiras@inquirer.com.ph)

## LIFESTYLE



AKLAN dish  
of inubaran, chicken  
cooked in coconut milk  
with chopped banana  
pit (ubad)

We need  
to inform  
foreign  
tourists  
in Boracay  
about our  
flavor  
preferences  
and how  
we cook  
our  
excellent  
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## A taste of Aklan cooking in Boracay

**I**T MIGHT SEEM PLIGHTY but I literally took flight (via Sear) to Boracay last weekend. What better way to escape the turmoil in Manila? I first visited Boracay ages ago when there was no mall or delineation of areas into what are now called stations. The food was *ihaw-ihaw* and German dishes of sausages and potato salad.

The biggest thing then was an English breakfast, which was really just bread, jam and butter. I had hoped I would find more Filipino cooking, especially what I had on the main island, in the province of Aklan.

Of all the food we consumed in the province, it is *inubaran* that I remember and miss most. Florencio Miraflores, then governor and now congressman, kept his promise to a group of writers and photographers that we would get to taste the dish so identified with Aklan.

*Inubaran* is chicken cooked in coconut milk with chopped *ubad*, the pit of the banana plant. That first taste was pure bliss, a creamy soup with *ubad* bits that seem to take on the texture of rice.

*Inubaran* was what I looked for on that first Boracay visit and every visit thereafter. But it was only last weekend that I tasted it again where we stayed, the Boracay Tropics Resort.

Owners Bert and Cely Sarabia prepared a spread for lunch and what good fortune that they thought that there should be some cooking of the

### COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Fenix

place.

#### Memories

Tasting *inubaran* again brought back memories. Bert Sarabia is from Kalibo, and he reminisced about the cooking in his hometown. *Binakol*, he said, was chicken steamed in its own juice inside a bamboo that was cooked over charcoal. *Tolang*, a bit of salt and probably chili were all that's needed for the flavoring and aroma. Then he explained that the *suman* served to us by his wife Cely at breakfast and was, thankfully, still there at lunch, was only cooked in his barrio, Old Buswang in Kalibo.

The *suman* was made of *malagkit* mixed with liquefied *panocha* and cooked for hours. The Sarabias must have asked the cooks to make an exception for their guests that weekend as the *suman* was usually cooked only during Christmas.

My own Aklan memories had to be dug up from old files.

At one of the seaside beer gardens, where the waves constantly sent sprays of sea water on the cars parked along the shore, there was the best grilled food, fish and pork barbecued to perfection by grill masters.

What caught my eye the moment we entered was the *kinilaw* of shrimps. It was the sweetest shrimp I've ever tasted despite its being cooked in what Doreen G. Fernandez described as "liquid fire," a rather poetic description for down-to-earth vinegar.

The sweetness was a sure sign of freshness, helped too, no doubt, by the coconut milk. But as a counterpoint, some salted black beans were added.

#### Instant 'sinigang'

We partook of the *sinigang* of shrimps, sour and hot and perfect for that evening. The researcher in me

made me ask what souring fruit was used, expecting *batuan*, a souring round green fruit mainly used in the Visayas to be the answer. I almost fell off my chair from laughing when the waiter answered, "Knorr." No one, especially those in the food business, can refuse convenience and an affordable alternative.

Like many beer gardens, music was not piped in but was loud and featured singer-wannabes. All the women in our group ordered beer while the men had softdrink. Well, guess to whom they served the beer?

At the eating area, we had a view of the mangrove, making us hopeful that Aklanians knew how the fence-like sea trees filtered the water, served as fish and crab sanctuary, preserved the border between sea and land. Indeed, Cely Sarabia informed me that there was now an Eco Park Bakawan, this time in the barrio New Buswang in Kalibo.

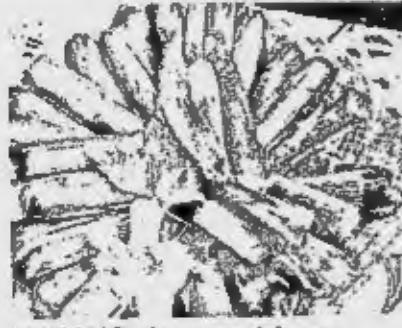
Perhaps next time, the Sarabias will serve the other dishes I had in Aklan. There should be shellfish such as *litlob* with the orange meat and the elongated *bayuyan*. Why not the seaweed called *laba-laba* that looks like green flowers? And please do have the shrimp *kinilaw* with coconut milk and salted black beans.

Boracay boasts of good cooking but you usually hear of Italian pizza and gelato, Greek Portuguese or Spanish food. Try looking for Filipino food and you get the usual *ihaw-ihaw*, which isn't something to sniff at and is an important part of our cuisine.

But there are so many other dishes cooked away from the grill. We need to inform the many foreign tourists at this white-sand paradise about our flavor preferences and how we cook our excellent ingredients. And if we can tell them about Aklan and our country through the food, that's better than any brochure or tourist guide.

*Sear flies 24 trips everyday to Boracay via Caticlan. Call 8490100.*

For reservations at Boracay's Tropics Resort Hotel, call 6871465 (Manila) or (6336) 2883034 (Boracay Island).



**SUMAN Pasko**, a special suman of glutinous rice cooked slowly in liquid poncho done only during the Christmas season in barrio Old Buswang, Kalibo

## Winners can end up losers

By Linda B. Bolido

**I** THOUGHT I WAS LUCKY. I GOT a text message saying, "Globe telecom G cash: congrats for winning Nokia 7610 in our network. To claim your prize plz call toll free tel. (prefix is 0906) DTI NCR permit #2838 series of 2005."

Then a friend forwarded this message: "D'auditor's of (a foundation) inform u dat ur celon no. won Pph950,000.00 2nd prize winner draw last: 03/03/06. Call me now I'm Arty \_\_\_\_\_." The prefix of the sender's number is 0910.

If second prize is P950,000, makes you wonder what first prize is. Also makes you wonder what kind of work the foundation does to give away prizes like that. They probably do charity work for cell phone users.

Scam artists deserve an A for effort. Despite disclaimers from mobile phone companies (Globe, of course, said the message I got was a hoax, which I already knew because I didn't use G cash), they spend money sending out phony messages—from a simple "you win 500 load..." to this impressive prize of close to a million, always making it sound authentic by giving a DTI permit number.

But "fees" are required to claim prizes—from a few hundreds to a few thousands—and people never get their winnings. The scam must pay, otherwise why would these hoaxes continue?

### THE CONSUMER

We can only repeat what has been said before and no doubt will be said again and again. If it seems too good to be true, it usually is.

#### Incomplete information

Tina Diaz is grateful that Alfonso Sia, a stockholder of Ace Water Spa in Del Monte Avenue, Quezon City, promised to act on her complaint.

She explained that Ace was a hydro spa offering relaxation in their various pools. She had the diligence to phone the company first to ask about "rates and requirements so as to be prepared for everything and not be inconvenienced."

She said the staff failed to specify regulations on swimming attire. "All I was told was to bring towels and bathing suits." But when they got there, her husband's swimming shorts were considered inappropriate.

They brought the problem of miscommunication to the attention of a company officer. But she said the guy, instead of apologizing, insinuated that "consumers who make a fuss are only out to extract preferential treatment."

Diaz said, if they could not relax the rules considering they gave incomplete information, the executive could at least have given the assurance that steps would be taken to

avoid such a problem in the future instead of hinting at some hidden agenda behind her complaint.

She said the employees, including the guards, were more courteous and apologetic. In her letter to Sia, Diaz said such behavior should have been displayed by an executive who, more than the employees, represented the company to customers.

In his response, Sia apologized for his late reply saying he was away on a business trip and for the distress and inconvenience the incident might have caused. He added, "We duly place great importance on the conduct of our employees. Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. Rest assured your complaint will give us the opportunity to remedy any problem that may exist. We hope that you will give us another chance to serve you."

#### Not PLDT's

Horace Lavides, media senior manager of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT), said the Internet dial-up service a reader was asking about (column of March 2) was not PLDT's.

(Our regular columnist, Marietta V. Giron, is indisposed. Please send letters to Consumer Corner, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Masardo and Yague Sts., Makati City; PO Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati; or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph—Editor)

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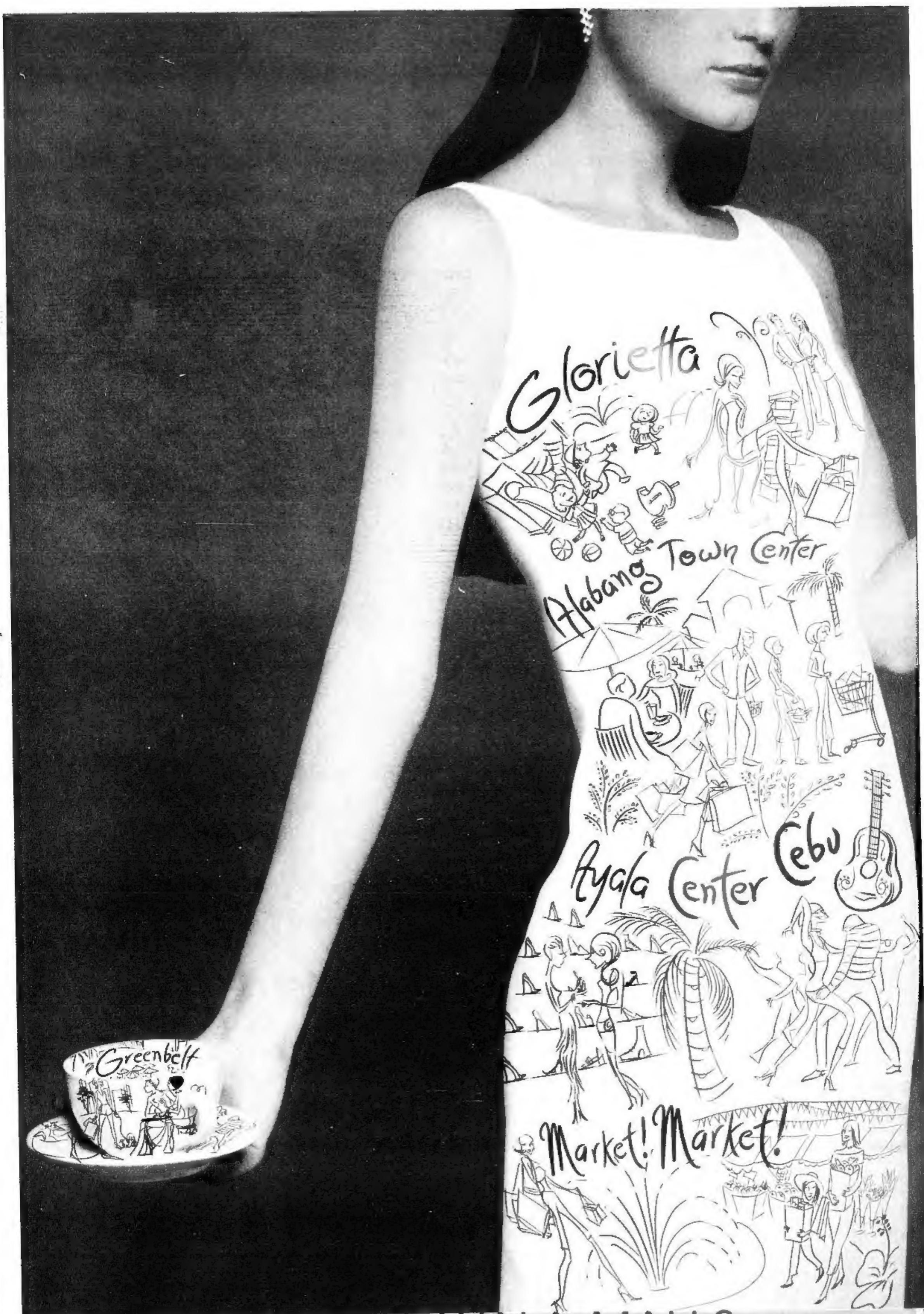
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## LIFE. STYLED BY AYALA MALLS.

At any given day, each Ayala Mall is full of life. Families spending time at the Glorietta; kids feeling at home in Alabang Town Center; the stylish dining and dining at Greenbelt; Cebuanos having a sense of pride out of their premier mall, Ayala Center Cebu; and bargain hunters enjoying the unique finds at Market! Market!

From lush parks to playgrounds, state-of-the-art cinemas to al fresco cafes, each Ayala Mall is unique in its design and features, offering an unrivaled sense of place to everyone. But the one thing that's common among all Ayala Malls is the rewarding experience that everyone enjoys, whatever their lifestyle maybe. There always will be an Ayala Mall for families to bond and celebrate, lovers to rekindle relationships, businessmen to seal deals, and friends to cherish each other's company.

Each moment spent at Ayala Malls is a celebration of life, a moment worthy keeping as memory. Because only at Ayala Malls can everyone have the time of their life and live it to the fullest.

Ayala



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